A/53/49 (Vol. I)

United Nations

Resolutions
and
Decisions

adopted by the General Assembly during its fifty-third session

Volume I
Resolutions
9 September – 18 December 1998

General Assembly
Official Records • Fifty-third Session
Supplement No. 49 (A/53/49)

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NOTE

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

Regular sessions

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

Special sessions

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter "S" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter "S" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

Emergency special sessions

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters "ES" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters "ES" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

* * *

The present volume contains the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly from 9 September to 18 December 1998. Decisions adopted by the Assembly during this period apear in volume II. Resolutions and decisions adopted subsequently during the fifty-third session will be published in volume III.

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53/1. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

A

ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATING FLOODS

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the loss of human life and the unprecedented destruction of property and infrastructure caused in recent weeks by the worst floods ever in Bangladesh,

Considering that Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries and that its situation has been worsened by the frequent recurrence of natural disasters having devastating consequences,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a development problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the large-scale relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the Government and the people of Bangladesh to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims and to put the country back on the road to development,

Conscious of the fact that international assistance and investment over time are required to mitigate and prevent the consequences of such disasters,

Noting the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the international community for help and assistance for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh,

Noting also the appeal to the international community made by the Prime Minister and the Government of Bangladesh to come forward with assistance in order to help the country to recover from the disastrous floods,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with the Government and the people of Bangladesh, who are bravely facing the disaster;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States, specialized agencies and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to respond urgently and generously in order to assist Bangladesh in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the unprecedented calamity;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to Member States, international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals and groups that have so generously assisted the Government of Bangladesh in its immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts;

4. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance and to coordinate activities of the United Nations agencies in the field for purposeful and unified assistance by the international community, and requests him to continue these efforts through effective measures;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to take all necessary measures to provide support and assistance to Bangladesh in order to strengthen its capacity for disaster preparedness and prevention programmes and to implement its plans and programmes for seeking a long-term and effective solution to the problems caused by floods and other natural disasters.

23rd plenary meeting
1 October 1998

B

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, CUBA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/21 P of 18 September 1995 and 52/169 A to M of 16 December 1997,

Deeply distressed by the loss of life, the large number of afflicted people and the destruction wrought by hurricane Georges, which from 20 to 22 September 1998 devastated Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis and several other countries and Territories of the region,

Conscious of the efforts of the Governments and the peoples of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the hurricane,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to alleviate the grave situation caused by this natural disaster,

Conscious of the prompt response being made by Governments, the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief,

Recognizing that the magnitude of the disaster and its medium- and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the peoples and the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to face the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas and to initiate the process of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its support* for the efforts of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis and its solidarity with their peoples as they cope with the disaster;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief to the affected countries;

3. *Urges* all States of the international community, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries and to provide financing for the national and regional relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts being undertaken by the affected countries using their own and pooled human resources;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions and bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to assist the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis in identifying their medium- and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, as well as to help with the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected countries undertaken by their respective Governments;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to provide support and assistance in the strengthening of the disaster preparedness and prevention capacities of the countries of the region;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, through the Economic and Social Council at the next humanitarian questions segment of its substantive session, on the collaborative effort referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above and on the progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries.

28th plenary meeting
5 October 1998

C

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND PANAMA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/21 P of 18 September 1995 and 53/1 B of 5 October 1998,

Deeply regretting the loss of human lives and the scores of victims in the wake of hurricane Mitch in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from 26 to 29 October 1998,

Conscious of the huge material losses sustained to crops, homes, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to minimize the human losses and rapidly to assist the affected population,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to rebuild the affected areas and to alleviate the grave situation wreaked by this natural disaster,

Aware that the work of reconstruction will require broad, coordinated support, as well as solidarity, from the international community,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and the peoples of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have so far provided support to the rescue and assistance effort for the affected population;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to provide speedy support to the relief, rehabilitation and assistance effort for the affected countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama in assessing their needs and to help to ensure the rehabilitation and recovery of the economy and the affected population in the short, medium and long term;

5. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for strengthening the disaster-preparedness capacity of the countries concerned;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, through the Economic and Social Council at the next humanitarian questions segment of its substantive session, on the collaborative effort referred to in paragraph 4 above and on the progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries.

50th plenary meeting
2 November 1998

D

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF NICARAGUA: AFTERMATH OF THE WAR AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/15 of 20 November 1990 concerning the situation in Central America, and resolutions 47/169 of 22 December 1992, 48/8 of 22 October 1993, 49/16 of 17 November 1994, 50/85 of 15 December 1995 and 51/8 of 25 October 1996 concerning the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which it requested the international community to continue to provide support to Nicaragua, taking into account the exceptional circumstances faced by that country, and requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Nicaraguan authorities, to provide the assistance necessary in the process of consolidation of peace,

Aware that, despite the reduction and renegotiation of the heavy burden of the foreign debt, achieved with the collaboration of the international community, Nicaragua continues to be a heavily indebted country, a fact that negatively affects its ability to ensure real sustainable growth,

Recognizing that, although progress has been made in the area of problems related to property, much still remains to be done, and that the resolution of these problems is an important factor in the consolidation of peace and democracy in Nicaragua,

Recognizing also the intensive efforts by the Government of Nicaragua to promote a sustained economic recovery and the considerable progress made in securing a broad social consensus by means of an ongoing process of national dialogue with a view to addressing national problems in a peaceful way,

Noting the importance of programmes for creating a culture of respect for human rights, laying the foundations of peace and promoting ethical values, which are being implemented in Nicaragua with the cooperation of the international community,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the prevention of natural disasters, the mitigation of their effects and assistance to victims through the municipal, regional and national system created by the Nicaraguan authorities with the assistance of the international community, which demonstrated its effectiveness in the emergency assistance provided to mitigate the serious effects of the drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon, which had a major impact on the country's agricultural production,

Taking into consideration the fact that in 1998 the demobilization of the last armed group remaining in the aftermath of the war was completed,

Considering that, despite the dedication and efforts of the Nicaraguan authorities in mine clearance, in cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defence Board, in many areas that were the scene of armed conflicts the problem of landmines persists, continuing to endanger the population and preventing cultivation and movement in vast areas of the country,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Support Group for Nicaragua, which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, continues to play an active role in supporting that country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development,

Considering that, despite the regional fire control and prevention strategy, the El Niño phenomenon prolonged the dry season during the period 1997–1998, leading to an increase in the number of forest fires in the Central American region, Nicaragua being the country that suffered most with extensive tropical forest areas affected,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8,[1]

1. *Commends* the efforts made by the international community, including the United Nations system, to supplement the action undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua and by other parties concerned in the tasks of resolving Nicaragua's special economic problems, strengthening democracy and consolidating peace;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General for his report concerning the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8;[1]

3. *Encourages* the Government of Nicaragua to support the development of medium- and long-term national programmes and strategies, in particular those related to poverty alleviation, economic and social development and the resolution of problems related to property, with a view to the consolidation of a stable democracy;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts and progress made in mine clearance in Nicaragua, and calls on the States members of international organizations to continue to provide the material, technical and financial support needed by the Government of Nicaragua to complete mine-clearance activities in its national territory;

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to continue its cooperation with Nicaragua in order to supplement its national efforts and provide it with the necessary financial resources consistently and under favourable conditions, with a view to the effective promotion of its economic growth and development, the conservation of its natural resources and the strengthening of its democracy;

6. *Invites* creditor countries and funding institutions to continue to support Nicaragua in negotiations in order to come to an effective and equitable solution to the external debt problem and to support the country so that it may join the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative as soon as possible;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

E

ASSISTANCE TO THE NIGER, FOLLOWING THE SEVERE FLOODS

The General Assembly,

Seriously concerned about the loss of human life and unprecedented destruction of property, dwellings and infrastructure caused in recent months by the severest floods recorded in the history of the Niger,

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[1] A/53/291.

Recalling that the Niger is one of the least developed countries and one of the poorest according to the human development index,

Considering that the extent of the disaster and its short- and medium-term effects require, as a complement to the endeavours of the Government and the people of the Niger, a humanitarian contribution from the international community to undertake relief and rehabilitation operations,

Noting the appeal for assistance in dealing with the disastrous consequences of the floods, made by the Government of the Niger to the international community on 19 August 1998,

1. *Expresses its solidarity with and support for* the Government and the people of the Niger at this difficult time;

2. *Calls upon* all the Member States, the specialized agencies and the other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to extend generous assistance to the Niger in support of the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction operations and programmes it is undertaking with a view to dealing with the disastrous consequences of the floods;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Member States, international and non-governmental organizations and individuals that have so generously helped the Government of the Niger to take the first immediate relief measures;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all the necessary arrangements for the mobilization and coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the international institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in order to support the endeavours of the Government of the Niger.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

F

SPECIAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE COMOROS

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,[2]

Recalling its resolution 51/30 F of 13 December 1996 on special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,

Noting the fact that the Comoros has been subjected to external events beyond its control,

Noting also the political, economic and social trauma caused by those events, which are paralysing the economic activities of the Government, including the collection of State revenues from much of the national territory, thereby depriving the State budget of the greater part of its regular budget income,

Noting further that, as a result of those events, a severe economic crisis has had serious political consequences characterized by separatist tendencies which, since March 1997, have threatened the territorial integrity and economic and social survival of the Comoros,

Recognizing that this situation has resulted in a decline in the country's gross domestic product with adverse economic consequences; the complete impoverishment of the population; the inability of the Government to ensure that the salaries of civil servants are paid regularly; the virtual paralysis owing to a lack of resources, of the reconstruction and development programmes essential to the survival of the country; and a severe recession that has led to the collapse of the energy sector and to acute electricity and fuel shortages,

Aware of the efforts made by the Government and the people of the Comoros to assist the most affected and deprived sectors of the population,

Considering in particular that, in order to respond to those urgent humanitarian needs the Government of the Comoros, in the absence of other resources, has had to reallocate to that end, as a matter of great urgency, the major part of the budget required for the functioning of the State and the financial resources normally devoted to vital economic and social programmes,

Considering also that the unfavourable situation of the Comoros, which is among the least developed countries, is aggravated by several important factors, including the physical distance from its trading partners, the scarcity of natural resources, the diminutive size of the domestic market, the fall in prices of its export products and the poverty of its soil,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros;[2]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for having, from 25 August to 6 September 1997, expeditiously dispatched the multidisciplinary humanitarian and technical assessment mission to the Comoros, and for the mission's conclusions, which are contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Urges* the international community to respond generously to the needs for urgent assistance identified in annexes I and II to the report of the Secretary-General, and to grant to the Government of the Comoros all necessary assistance in order to enable it to cope with its budget deficits, including gifts in cash and in kind and debt forgiveness;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and to all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to all the international organizations concerned, including United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, for the assistance they have provided for the relief of the Comoros, and urges them, in consultation with the Government of the Comoros, to help the country to meet its most pressing humanitarian needs and to support its efforts to effect economic recovery;

5. *Stresses* that the financial resources available remain nonetheless insufficient vis-à-vis the basic needs to ensure the recovery of the country;

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[2] A/53/330.

6. *Requests* all Member States and donor bodies, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to grant to the Comoros all necessary financial, economic and technical assistance, in order to enable it to achieve national reconstruction and sustainable development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the above-mentioned assistance and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

G

ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, 47/42 of 9 December 1992, 49/21 D of 20 December 1994 and 51/30 D of 5 December 1996, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997 on assistance in mine clearance, and stressing the need to foster the establishment of national mine-clearance capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of those weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction,

Bearing in mind that Mozambique is recovering from a devastating war and that a proper response to address the current situation in the country requires substantial international assistance in a comprehensive and integrated manner and linking, *inter alia*, resettlement to reintegration programmes in order to strengthen further the process of national reconstruction and development,

Bearing in mind also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,[3] and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

Noting the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist national efforts,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the consolidation of a lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in Mozambique;

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Government and the people of Mozambique for national reconstruction and development;

5. *Stresses* that Mozambique has made significant progress in mitigating the consequences of a devastating war and that continued substantial coordinated international assistance is required to assist the country in addressing its development needs;

6. *Stresses also* the significant progress made by the Government of Mozambique in extending essential social services and in establishing an operating environment for poverty reduction and sustainable human development;

7. *Welcomes* the development assistance focused on rehabilitation and extension of essential social services and infrastructure, human capital investment, promotion of smallholder agriculture and establishment of an enabling environment for the expansion of private sector activity;

8. *Commends* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to mine action in Mozambique, and urges those that have the capacity to do so to continue to provide the needed assistance with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to develop its national mine-action capacity within the framework of the ongoing mine-action programme;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique:

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique;

(*b*) To continue to coordinate the work of the United Nations system for adequate response to the development needs of Mozambique;

(*c*) To prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

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[3] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[4] A/53/157.

H

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION FOR THE HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL REHABILITATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEMIPALATINSK REGION OF KAZAKHSTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 M of 16 December 1997,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, has become a matter of serious concern for the people and the Government of Kazakhstan with regard to its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Conscious that the international community should pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing the need to coordinate national and international efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the health of the affected population and the environment in this region,

Bearing in mind the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[6] of the heads of the Central Asian States of 28 February 1997, proclaiming 1998 as the Year of Environmental Protection in the region of Central Asia,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[5] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, which constitute a useful input in the elaboration of an overall plan of action to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Stresses* the need for greater international attention and extra efforts in solving problems with regard to the Semipalatinsk region and its population;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Invites* all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Invites* all Member States, in particular donor States, relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

I

ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LIBERIA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996 and 52/169 E of 16 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

Commending the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all donor countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Bretton Woods institutions and the non-governmental organizations for their participation in the Donors' Conference convened in Paris on 7 April 1998 for the reconstruction of Liberia, and urges those that have not yet honoured their pledges and commitments to do so;

2. *Also expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;

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[5] A/53/424.

[6] A/52/112, annex.

[7] A/53/377.

3. *Calls upon* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia in order to facilitate the implementation of its National Reconstruction Programme submitted at the Donors' Conference;

4. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socio-economic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to uphold the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him:

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help the Government of Liberia in its reconstruction and development, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

(*b*) To continue his collaboration with the Government of Liberia with the objective of holding, in due course, the second round-table conference of donors to consider the funding of the second phase of the National Reconstruction Programme, depending on progress in the fields of human rights, national reconciliation and the strengthening of the rule of law;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fifth session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

J

ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DJIBOUTI

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 K of 16 December 1997 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[8] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Conscious that Djibouti is included in the list of least developed countries and that it is ranked 162nd out of the 174 countries studied in the *Human Development Report 1998*,[9]

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those that occurred in October and November 1997, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires the deployment of substantial resources that exceed the real capacity of the country,

Emphasizing that there is an urgent need to provide financial support in the areas of demobilization, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the regions affected by civil strife, with a view to strengthening peace and stability in the country,

Noting that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa, in particular in Somalia, and noting also the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of Djibouti and caused security problems in the country, in particular in the city of Djibouti,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Djibouti is continuing to implement a structural adjustment programme, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, so that the country may achieve lasting economic results,

Noting with gratitude the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti;[10]

2. *Declares its solidarity* with the Government and the people of Djibouti, who continue to face critical challenges owing, in particular, to the scarcity of natural resources and the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa;

3. *Notes* the implementation by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme and, in that context, appeals to all Governments, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to respond adequately to the financial and material needs of the country;

4. *Considers* that the process of demobilization and the reintegration and employment of demobilized soldiers is essential not only for national rehabilitation, but also for the success of the agreements with the international financial institutions and for the consolidation of peace, and that it

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[8] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[9] Published for the United Nations Development Programme by Oxford University Press, New York, 1998.

[10] A/53/361.

requires substantial resources that exceed the real capacity of the country;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the States and intergovernmental organizations that have already contributed the sums pledged at the round table on Djibouti, held at Geneva on 29 and 30 May 1997;

6. *Also expresses its gratitude* to the intergovernmental organizations and especially to the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the other funds and programmes of the United Nations system, for their contributions to the national rehabilitation of Djibouti, and invites them to continue their efforts;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close cooperation with the Government of Djibouti, his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 1999, on the progress made with regard to economic assistance to Djibouti and the implementation of the present resolution.

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

K

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND REHABILITATION IN TAJIKISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/30 J of 25 April 1997 and 52/169 I of 16 December 1997,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1113 (1997) of 12 June 1997, 1128 (1997) of 12 September 1997, 1138 (1997) of 14 November 1997, 1167 (1998) of 14 May 1998 and 1206 (1998) of 12 November 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[11]

Welcoming the progress made by the parties in the movement towards the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan,[12]

Commending the efforts of the United Nations, in particular those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan and of the personnel of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, in assisting the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement,

Noting that the economic situation in Tajikistan remains bleak, constraining the efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to support the vulnerable population, including returning refugees and displaced persons, and that the country remains in dire need of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance,

Expressing its regret over the muted response to the 1998 United Nations inter-agency appeal for Tajikistan,

Recognizing the need for international support in creating conditions to shed the dependency of Tajikistan on humanitarian assistance, thus preventing Tajikistan from becoming a permanent emergency,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and achieving national reconciliation in Tajikistan and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist Tajikistan in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

Expressing concern that the security situation in parts of Tajikistan remains volatile,

Deeply concerned about the danger posed by landmines in Tajikistan,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[11] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts aimed at achieving peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan, encourages the parties to expedite the full implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan,[12] and encourages the Commission on National Reconciliation to continue its efforts, in particular those aimed at the institution of a broad dialogue among the various political forces in the country in the interests of restoration and strengthening of civil accord in Tajikistan;

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in drawing the attention of the international community to the acute humanitarian problems of Tajikistan and in mobilizing assistance for the implementation of the General Agreement and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country;

4. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Resident Coordinator as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Tajikistan;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States, organizations of the United Nations system, the World Bank, other intergovernmental organizations and all relevant humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, that have responded and continue to respond positively to the humanitarian needs of Tajikistan;

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[11] A/53/316.

[12] A/52/219–S/1997/510, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, document S/1997/510.

6. *Welcomes* the pledges made at the donor conference convened by the Secretary-General at Vienna on 24 and 25 November 1997 to obtain international support dedicated to the implementation of the General Agreement, in particular in the areas of political reconciliation and democratization, the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and the reform of power structures, and the repatriation and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons, and invites the donor countries to continue to provide necessary assistance;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the results of the meeting of the World Bank Consultative Group on Tajikistan, held in Paris on 20 May 1998;

8. *Encourages* Member States and others concerned to continue assistance to alleviate the urgent humanitarian needs of Tajikistan and to offer support to Tajikistan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its economy;

9. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to continue the United Nations humanitarian programme in Tajikistan by issuing a consolidated inter-agency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan for 1999, and invites Member States to fund programmes included in the appeal;

10. *Strongly condemns* the murder of four members of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, and urges the parties to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and other international humanitarian personnel, as well as the safety and security of their premises;

11. *Encourages* the parties to cooperate in order to reduce the threat from the indiscriminate use of landmines to the civilian population of Tajikistan and to the provision of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Recognizes* that comprehensive international support remains essential for the intensification of the peace process in Tajikistan, and reminds both parties that the ability of the international community to mobilize and to continue assistance for Tajikistan is linked to the security of the personnel of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan and of international organizations and of humanitarian workers;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Tajikistan and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fourth session the question of the situation of Tajikistan under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

L

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 A of 16 December 1997,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[13]

Deeply concerned about the current conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which poses a serious threat to regional peace and security,

Reaffirming the obligation to respect the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the other States in the region and the need for all States to refrain from any interference in each other's internal affairs,

Alarmed at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country, and calling for its protection,

Urging all parties to respect and protect human rights and respect international humanitarian law, in particular, the Geneva Conventions of 1949[14] and the additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[15]

Deeply concerned about the extensive destruction of life and property as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind that the Democratic Republic of the Congo also suffers from the problems encountered by a country that has received thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. *Calls* for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the initiation of a peace process, including negotiations to end the conflict, and a political dialogue with a view to national reconciliation;

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[13] A/53/538.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[15] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

2. *Supports* regional diplomatic initiatives aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict;

3. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue sound macroeconomic policies and to promote good governance and the rule of the law, and urges the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to exert all efforts for economic recovery and reconstruction despite the ongoing armed conflict;

4. *Renews its invitation* to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, stresses the need for the Government to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons within the territory of that country, regardless of their origin, and reaffirms the need for respect for the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular the safety of humanitarian personnel, and safe and unhindered access to all affected populations;

5. *Renews its urgent appeal* to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, about ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict;

(*b*) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to enable it to meet its urgent need for economic recovery and reconstruction;

(*c*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

M

ASSISTANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF SOMALIA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989, 45/229 of 21 December 1990, 46/176 of 19 December 1991, 47/160 of 18 December 1992, 48/201 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 L of 20 December 1994, 50/58 G of 20 December 1995, 51/30 G of 13 December 1996 and 52/169 L of 16 December 1997 and the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on emergency assistance to Somalia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, *inter alia*, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote peace, stability and national reconciliation,

Noting with concern that the absence of central authority and effective civil institutions that characterizes Somalia continues to impede sustained comprehensive development and that, while the environment has become conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work in certain parts of the country, the humanitarian and security situation has remained fragile in other parts,

Welcoming the joint strategy for efficient and targeted assistance and the framework for collaboration developed and adopted by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, and reaffirming the importance it attaches to the need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia,[16]

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected Somali population,

Recognizing that, while the humanitarian situation remains fragile in some parts, there is a need to continue the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction process alongside the national reconciliation process, without prejudice to the provision of emergency relief assistance wherever and whenever required, as security allows,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system aimed at working directly with Somali communities, whenever possible, in the absence of a recognized national government, and welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with Somali elders, other local leaders and skilled local counterparts at the grass-roots level, as well as non-governmental organizations, on a programme of assistance combining humanitarian and developmental approaches, given the varying conditions in different areas,

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[16] A/53/344.

Re-emphasizing the importance of the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services at local and regional levels throughout the country,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending assistance to Somalia;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance to the Somali people;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others to resolve the situation in Somalia;

4. *Also welcomes* the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms available for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

5. *Emphasizes* the principle that the Somali people, in particular at the local level, have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of workable arrangements for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts for the effective execution of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country where peace and security prevail;

6. *Urges* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 so as to assist the Somali people to embark on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of civil administration at the local level in all those parts of the country where peace and security prevail;

7. *Appeals* to all the Somali parties concerned to seek peaceful means for resolving differences and to redouble their efforts to achieve national reconciliation that allows for transition from relief to reconstruction and development;

8. *Calls upon* all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement throughout the country;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia covering the period from October 1998 to December 1999;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

82nd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

N

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES RECEIVING REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/24 of 2 December 1994 and 52/169 B of 16 December 1997,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[17]

Deeply concerned about the ongoing conflicts in the Great Lakes region, which pose a serious threat to regional peace and security, and by the flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons as a result of those conflicts,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Deeply concerned about the plight of refugee children, in particular the problem of unaccompanied minors, and emphasizing the need for their protection, well-being and reunification with their families,

Bearing in mind the evident impact of the flow of refugees on the basic infrastructure, the environment and the life and property of local populations in the host countries,

Recognizing that the Central and East African countries receiving refugees, most of them least developed countries, continue to experience an extremely critical economic situation,

Deeply concerned about the grave consequences this has entailed for the capability of Central and East African countries to build their economies,

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Central and East Africa remains precarious and unsolved,

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[17] A/53/292.

Aware of the need to improve the security situation in the region, particularly in the border areas, for the safety of the refugees, the local community and personnel involved in humanitarian activities,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive to an early and sustainable solution to the flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to the Central and East African countries that have received refugees for the sacrifices they are making in granting refuge and hospitality to them,

Observing that the humanitarian aid dispatched should as far as possible take into consideration the scale of the needs of the local populations,

Stressing the need to continue to provide special assistance to the local populations of the countries receiving refugees,

1. *Again congratulates* the Secretary-General for the efforts he has made to draw the attention of the international community to the situation of refugees in Central and East African countries;

2. *Again expresses its gratitude* to all States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have done so for the financial, technical and material assistance they have been delivering to those countries that have been receiving refugees since the onset of the crisis and for the humanitarian assistance they have continued to render to refugees and the host countries, and calls upon them to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and social infrastructure in areas affected by the presence of refugees and to facilitate the restoration of the basic services destroyed in those host countries;

3. *Appeals* to the international community to assist in the search for durable solutions for African refugees, including voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement in third countries;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Central and East Africa;

5. *Again urges* the Governments of the region and all concerned parties to provide protection as well as safe and unhindered access for United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to the populations in need in all areas of the region, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, voluntary repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the follow-up to the present resolution, with a view to continuing discussions under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

82nd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

O

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling it resolutions 43/8 of 18 October 1988, 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989, 45/226 of 21 December 1990, 46/178 of 19 December 1991, 47/162 of 18 December 1992, 48/200 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 K of 20 December 1994, 50/58 J of 22 December 1995, 51/30 I of 17 December 1996 and 52/169 F of 16 December 1997 on emergency assistance to the Sudan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[18]

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[19] adopted by the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session of 1998, in which, among other things, the Council reaffirmed that international cooperation to address emergency situations should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Welcoming also the agreements reached by the parties to Operation Lifeline Sudan to facilitate delivery of relief assistance to affected populations, as well as the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the coordination of the Operation,

Noting with appreciation the increased contributions to the 1998 inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan and the progress made in the operation following a lower level of contributions in the first quarter, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, in particular in the areas of food and non-food assistance, including assistance to combat such diseases as malaria, and for logistics, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Expressing concern over the disastrous consequences of floods that have occurred in various parts of the country lately, and welcoming the appeal for assistance launched by the United Nations in that regard,

Calling for an early resolution to the conflict, and expressing concern that its continuation further increases the suffering of the civilian population and undermines the effectiveness of international, regional and national humanitarian assistance,

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[18] A/53/307.

[19] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.

Reaffirming the need for all parties to continue to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing emergency assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, for which safe and unhindered access to the affected populations has to be respected by all parties,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations with a view to improving United Nations assistance to affected areas, and encourages the continuation of that cooperation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donor community, United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations for the contributions so far made to the humanitarian needs of the Sudan, and calls upon them to continue their assistance;

3. *Stresses the need* for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated and managed with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full involvement and cooperation of the Government of the Sudan, taking cognizance of the relevant Operation Lifeline Sudan agreements reached by the parties, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

4. *Recognizes the need* for neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian activities, and the full cooperation of all parties, and stresses in this connection that Operation Lifeline Sudan should operate within the principle of national sovereignty and the framework of international cooperation in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the country, and urges all States, donor countries, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to alleviate the plight of the population affected by the recent floods;

6. *Urges* the international community to give assistance for the rehabilitation of transportation means and infrastructure vital for the provision of relief supplies in the Sudan and their cost-effectiveness, and in this context stresses the importance of continued cooperation by all the parties involved so as to facilitate and improve the delivery of relief supplies;

7. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions to combat such diseases as malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

8. *Takes note of and is encouraged* by the signing of the April 1997 Peace Agreement, as well as the convening of rounds of talks between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army faction under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of the Countries of the Horn of Africa, calls for the intensification of its efforts with more frequent and regular talks to achieve a lasting peaceful solution and in this connection welcomes the announced ceasefire, and calls upon the parties to the conflict to maintain and broaden the ceasefire in order to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

9. *Urges* the international community to continue to support national programmes of rehabilitation, voluntary resettlement and reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons, as well as assistance to refugees;

10. *Stresses the imperative* of ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel, as well as safe and unhindered access for providing relief assistance to all affected populations, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and of international humanitarian law reaffirming the necessity for humanitarian personnel to respect national laws;

11. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with special emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as on meeting emergency relief needs;

12. *Welcomes* the signing by the Government of the Sudan of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[20] urges all parties to the conflict to desist from using anti-personnel mines, calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the region, and urges the international community and United Nations agencies to provide necessary assistance related to mine action in the Sudan;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan and to report on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the country to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

92nd plenary meeting
17 December 1998

53/2. Fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

29th plenary meeting
6 October 1998

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[20] See CD/1478.

ANNEX

Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping

We, the States Members of the United Nations, have gathered at this commemorative meeting of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly to mark the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping. It has been fifty years since the establishment of the first United Nations observer mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. We pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have, in the past fifty years, served under the United Nations flag in more than forty peacekeeping operations around the world, and we honour the memory of more than 1,500 United Nations peacekeepers who have laid down their lives in the cause of peace.

We reiterate our support for all efforts effectively to promote the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. We recall with pride the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations, and we welcome the establishment by the Security Council of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal as a tribute to the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives while serving in peacekeeping operations under the operational control and authority of the United Nations. We, the Member States of the United Nations, affirm our commitment and willingness to provide full support to United Nations peacekeepers to ensure that they are able successfully to fulfil the tasks entrusted to them.

53/4. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the "Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of regulations of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996 and 52/10 of 5 November 1997,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17 and 52/10, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/10;[21]

2. *Reiterates its call* on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

37th plenary meeting
14 October 1998

53/5. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the purposes of the Association of Caribbean States, as enunciated in the convention by which it was established, and which has been registered with the Secretariat, are consistent with those of the United Nations,

Considering that, accordingly, it is mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Caribbean States,

Taking note of the desire of the Association of Caribbean States for the establishment of such cooperation,

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[21] A/53/320 and Add.1–3.

1. *Decides* to invite the Association of Caribbean States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

38th plenary meeting
15 October 1998

53/6. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

1. *Decides* to invite the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

38th plenary meeting
15 October 1998

53/7. World Solar Programme 1996–2005

The General Assembly,

Aware that one of the priority tasks of the United Nations for the benefit of present and future generations is the elimination of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life of the millions living in misery,

Recalling, in the context of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[22] that sustainable development is one of the main goals of the United Nations system and that one of the key elements for attaining it is the application of sustainable energy systems, which includes the wider use of environmentally friendly, renewable energies,

Recalling also that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[23] recognized the need to promote efforts in research on and development and use of renewable energies at the international and national levels,

Recalling further that energy will be one of the main topics of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001,

Recalling that the World Solar Summit, held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, adopted the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[24] and approved the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005[25] aimed at improving the quality of life in both industrialized and developing countries through the wider use of renewable energies, notably in the rural areas of developing countries, and that the Programme was approved by the World Solar Commission in June 1997,

Recalling also resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,[26]

Considering the need to make all necessary efforts to achieve the goals set out in the Harare Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the support shown and commitments made so far by a number of donor Member States,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the heads of State and Government who have agreed to serve on the World Solar Commission, and especially to the Chairman of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the World Solar Programme 1996–2005[25] as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda;

3. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to the successful implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations:

(*a*) To undertake concrete action in order to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system to attain the objective of sustainable development;

(*b*) To bring the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 to the attention of relevant funding and technical assistance sources and to encourage them to consider contributing to its effective implementation;

(*c*) To continue to sensitize and generate a greater degree of awareness in all Member States and international, regional and national institutions, both public and private, to the strategic importance of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 for ensuring sustainable development;

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[22] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[23] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[24] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[25] Ibid., annex.

[26] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October–12 November 1997*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

(*d*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report entitled "World Solar Programme 1996–2005" concerning measures taken by the different entities of the United Nations system in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution.

39th plenary meeting
16 October 1998

53/8. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,[27]

Recalling the decision of the Council of the League of Arab States that it considers the League a regional organization within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate, develop and enhance further the ties existing between them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, technical and administrative fields,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[28] in particular section VII, concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace",[29]

Convinced that the maintenance and further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States contribute to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Convinced also of the need for more efficient and coordinated utilization of available economic and financial resources to promote common objectives of the two organizations,

Acknowledging the need for closer cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in realizing the goals and objectives of the two organizations,

Welcoming the third meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, held on 28 and 29 July 1998,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[27]

2. *Commends* the continued efforts of the League of Arab States to promote multilateral cooperation among Arab States, and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, including the latest general meeting, held in Geneva in 1997, and the sectoral meeting, held in Cairo from 8 to 11 June 1998;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify further their cooperation with a view to the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, economic and social development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests and objectives of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

6. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(*a*) To continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and among themselves, as well as with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(*b*) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects and programmes, in order to facilitate their implementation;

(*c*) To associate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

(*d*) To inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 July 1999, of the progress of their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in particular the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the previous meetings between the two organizations;

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[27] A/53/434.

[28] A/47/277–S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[29] A/50/60–S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

7. *Also calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to intensify cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the priority sectors of rural development, desertification and green belts, training and vocational training, technology, environment and information and documentation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation of, and follow-up action on, multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted at the meetings between the two organizations;

9. *Recommends* that the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system should utilize, insofar as possible, Arab institutions and technical expertise in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

10. *Welcomes* the results of the sectoral meeting on trade and development between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo in June 1998, and calls for further such meetings between the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the League of Arab States;

11. *Decides* that, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should take place once every two years, and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized regularly on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States, on the basis of agreement between the counterpart programmes of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of holding the next general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of organizations of the United Nations system and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations during 1999, and a sectoral meeting on areas of priority during the year 2000;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

42nd plenary meeting
22 October 1998

53/9. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/4 of 24 October 1996 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,[30]

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, *inter alia*, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Recalling also that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling further its resolutions 47/20 A of 24 November 1992, 47/20 B of 20 April 1993, 48/27 B of 8 July 1994, 49/5 of 21 October 1994, 49/27 B of 12 July 1995, 50/86 B of 3 April 1996 and 51/4 of 24 October 1996,

Aware that the effective consolidation of a new international order requires regional action in harmony with that of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States[30] and his efforts to strengthen that cooperation;

2. *Also takes note with satisfaction* of the exchange of information between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Organization of American States with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[31] which is helping to keep that organization abreast of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. *Recognizes* the work being done by the Organization of American States, on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, in the field of regional cooperation and in connection with its task of coordination with the United Nations;

4. *Welcomes* the undertaking of technical cooperation activities under the United Nations Trust Fund for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, financed by the Government of

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[30] A/53/272 and Add.1.

[31] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Italy, to assist small island developing States, including States members of the Organization of American States;

5. *Recommends* that a general meeting of representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States should be held in 1999 for the continued review and appraisal of cooperation programmes and of other matters to be mutually decided upon;

6. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the exchange with the Organization of American States of information and substantive reports on the advancement in the status of women, on matters relating to youth and on the eradication of poverty;

7. *Emphasizes* that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and be suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

42nd plenary meeting
22 October 1998

53/10. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those that call for the development of friendly relations among nations and the achievement of cooperation in solving problems of an economic and social character,

Recalling its numerous resolutions in which it has called upon the international community to take urgent and effective steps to end coercive economic measures,

Recalling also the final document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which reaffirmed that coercive economic measures and the enactment of extraterritorial laws are incompatible with international law and the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling further the decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fourth ordinary session,[32] in which that Assembly expressed concern at the continued imposition of extraterritorial coercive economic measures and demanded the elimination of such measures,

Taking into account the final document of the eighth session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Tehran,[33] which noted with grave concern that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws was having a negative impact on foreign investment in other States and rejected all coercive measures aimed at member States seeking to broaden the scope of their economic cooperation and trade,

Deeply concerned that Member States are continuing to apply extraterritorial coercive economic laws in violation of the norms of international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Believing that the prompt elimination of such measures would be consistent with the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant rules of the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/22;[34]

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of every State to economic and social development and to choose the political, economic and social system that it deems to be most appropriate for the welfare of its people, in accordance with its national plans and policies;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* at the negative impact of unilaterally imposed extraterritorial coercive economic measures on trade and financial and economic cooperation, including at the regional level, as well as the serious obstacles posed to the freedom of trade and the free flow of capital at the regional and international levels;

4. *Reiterates its call* for the repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose sanctions on corporations and nationals of other States;

5. *Again calls upon* all States not to recognize or apply extraterritorial coercive economic measures or legislative enactments unilaterally imposed by any State;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion".

43rd plenary meeting
26 October 1998

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[32] A/53/179.

[33] A/53/72–S/1998/156; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1998*, document S/1998/156.

[34] A/52/343 and Add.1 and 2.

53/13. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/7 of 28 October 1997, in which it recommended that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be further strengthened, at a time when the United Nations is preparing to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[35] and the recent developments with regard to the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, following the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the two organizations in 1996,

Taking note with appreciation of the resolutions adopted and activities carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union during the past year in support of United Nations actions in the fields of peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights, democracy, gender issues and governance,

1. *Looks forward* to continued close cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of holding a conference of presiding officers of national parliaments at United Nations Headquarters, in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly in 2000 proposed by the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on various aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including information made available by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on preparations for the proposed conference of presiding officers of national parliaments in 2000;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

47th plenary meeting
28 October 1998

53/14. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/38 of 18 November 1981, 37/8 of 29 October 1982, 38/37 of 5 December 1983, 39/47 of 10 December 1984, 40/60 of 9 December 1985, 41/5 of 17 October 1986, 43/1 of 17 October 1988, 45/4 of 16 October 1990, 47/6 of 21 October 1992, 49/8 of 25 October 1994 and 51/11 of 4 November 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee,[36]

Having heard the statement made by the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on the steps taken by the Consultative Committee to ensure continuing, close and effective cooperation between the two organizations,[37]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[36]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuing efforts of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee towards strengthening the role of the United Nations and its various organs, including the International Court of Justice, through programmes and initiatives undertaken by the Consultative Committee;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the commendable progress achieved towards enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee in wider areas;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Consultative Committee to participate actively in the programmes of the United Nations Decade of International Law and programmes on environment and sustainable development, as well as in the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee".

48th plenary meeting
29 October 1998

53/15. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Recalling further its resolutions 50/1 of 12 October 1995, 51/21 of 27 November 1996 and 52/19 of 21 November 1997, in which it urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and invited the relevant international financial institutions to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes and extend their assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives,

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[35] A/53/458.

[36] A/53/306.

[37] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Plenary Meetings*, 48th meeting (A/53/PV.48), and corrigendum.

Recalling its resolution 52/169 M of 16 December 1997 on the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan,

Bearing in mind the progress achieved in the restructuring process of the Economic Cooperation Organization and considering that that organization should strive to play a more effective role, aimed at the all-round socio-economic development of its member States, which is consistent with the aims and objectives of the United Nations in promoting higher standards of living and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Welcoming the recent developments concerning drug control activities in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, including the growing cooperation between that organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization at its eighth meeting to strengthen the monitoring of the international trade in precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Noting that the existing relationship between the Economic Cooperation Organization and various organizations of the United Nations system has contributed towards identifying and assisting regional programmes in advancing the socio-economic infrastructure of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and encouraging further coordinated utilization of available resources in promoting common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the Almaty Declaration[38] issued at the fifth meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held at Almaty on 10 and 11 May 1998, which re-emphasizes the importance of and the resolve of the States members of that organization to promote socio-economic development, enhanced trade and an integrated transport and communications network in their territories;

2. *Takes note also* of the Programme of Action of the Economic Cooperation Organization Decade of Transport and Communications (1998–2007), adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held at Ashgabat in March 1998, and invites the specialized agencies and international financial institutions to give due consideration to the projects envisaged in the Programme of Action for assistance;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the signing, at Almaty in May 1998, by the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, of the main text of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement, aimed at facilitating the transit of goods and passengers, both within the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization and in neighbouring countries, and invites the relevant United Nations entities to extend all possible assistance in promoting the objectives of the Framework Agreement both within and outside the region;

4. *Appreciates* the entry into force of the agreements on transit trade and visa simplification procedures for businessmen in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which, in conjunction with the ongoing technical assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development concerning trade efficiency and trade and transport facilitation, may contribute to enhancing intraregional and interregional trade;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/19,[39] expresses satisfaction at the enhanced pace of mutually beneficial interaction between the two organizations through cooperative arrangements entered into by the Economic Cooperation Organization with various organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and requests those organizations to maintain the existing momentum of contacts and cooperation;

6. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-fourth session, held in April 1998 to promote cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the identified areas of mutual concern, and invites the Commission to enhance the mutual collaboration with that organization, focusing on implementable projects in the priority areas of the Economic Cooperation Organization, namely, transport and communications, trade, investment, energy, environment, industry and agriculture, for the overall benefit of the entire region;

7. *Also welcomes* the signing by the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Development Programme of the project document on capacity-building of the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and encourages the Programme to continue to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional cooperation arrangements and create an enabling environment for sustainable development in the area;

8. *Further welcomes* the signing in December 1997 by the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a memorandum of understanding, and accordingly invites the Food and Agriculture Organization, within its current mandate and resources, to consult and cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization in order to attain the objectives of the latter in this field;

9. *Welcomes* the holding, at Baku in September 1998, of a joint Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations Population Fund conference on the role of men in reproductive health and family planning, and calls upon the Fund and other relevant United Nations organizations, in

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[38] A/52/962, annex.

[39] A/53/435.

cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization, to continue activities in the field of public health and social development in the future;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the relevant United Nations organizations, in pursuit of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, to render all possible assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization in the implementation of its programmes and projects pertaining to the world drug problem;

11. *Invites* the relevant international financial institutions to extend their assistance, both technical and financial, as appropriate, to the regional development plans of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the priority areas;

12. *Welcomes* the decision of the Heads of Central Asian States on the creation of an international fund on saving the Aral Sea, and invites the relevant international organizations to extend financial and technical assistance towards rehabilitation programmes and projects, both ongoing and future, in certain parts of the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization that are suffering from ecological catastrophic influences, including the Aral Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site and the Sarez Lake basin;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

48th plenary meeting
29 October 1998

53/16. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/4 of 22 October 1982, 38/4 of 28 October 1983, 39/7 of 8 November 1984, 40/4 of 25 October 1985, 41/3 of 16 October 1986, 42/4 of 15 October 1987, 43/2 of 17 October 1988, 44/8 of 18 October 1989, 45/9 of 25 October 1990, 46/13 of 28 October 1991, 47/18 of 23 November 1992, 48/24 of 24 November 1993, 49/15 of 15 November 1994, 50/17 of 20 November 1995, 51/18 of 14 November 1996 and 52/4 of 22 October 1997,

Recalling also its resolution 3369 (XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which it decided to invite the Organization of the Islamic Conference to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference,[40]

Taking into account the desire of both organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and technical fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and technical development,

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage the activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations, its funds and programmes and specialized agencies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,

Noting also the encouraging progress made in the ten priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the identification of other areas of cooperation,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its organs and institutions contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation the determination of both organizations to strengthen further the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,

Welcoming the results of the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held at Geneva from 13 to 15 July 1998,

Welcoming also the third high-level meeting, convened by the Secretary-General on 28 and 29 July 1998, of regional organizations,[41] including the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with which the United Nations has cooperated in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[40]

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

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[40] A/53/430.

[41] See A/52/1021–S/1998/785, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/785.

4. *Requests* the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to cooperate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights, social and economic development and technical cooperation;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review the ways and means for enhancing the actual mechanisms of such cooperation;

6. *Welcomes with appreciation* the increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the field of peacemaking and preventive diplomacy and takes note of the close cooperation between the two organizations in the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Afghanistan;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, coordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field and their ongoing consultations with a view to further developing the modalities of such cooperation;

8. *Welcomes also* the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

9. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly by negotiating cooperation agreements, and invites them to multiply the contacts and meetings of the focal points for cooperation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

10. *Urges* the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions in order to enhance cooperation;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

48th plenary meeting
29 October 1998

53/17. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/8 of 16 October 1991, 49/141 of 20 December 1994 and 51/16 of 11 November 1996,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,[42]

Bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Also bearing in mind the assistance given by the United Nations towards the maintenance of peace and security in the Caribbean region,

Noting with satisfaction that the first general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system was held in New York on 27 and 28 May 1997,

Welcoming the fact that the Deputy Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General, attended the meeting of the Heads of Government of the countries members of the Caribbean Community, held in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 30 June to 4 July 1998, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Community,

Affirming the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between entities of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community in the areas of economic and social development, as well as of political and humanitarian affairs,

Convinced of the need for the coordinated utilization of available resources to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,[42] as well as efforts to strengthen that cooperation;

2. *Welcomes* the signing on 27 May 1997 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-

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[42] A/53/275 and Add.1.

General of the Caribbean Community of a cooperation agreement between the secretariats of the two organizations;

3. *Notes* that the third meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which examined the potential for greater interaction and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of conflict prevention, was held on 28 and 29 July 1998,[43] and welcomes the fact that the follow-up meeting in the area of early warning and conflict prevention will be convened shortly;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, to continue to assist in furthering the development and maintenance of peace and security within the Caribbean region;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives;

6. *Urges* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives, with special attention to the areas and issues identified in the meeting on 27 and 28 May 1997, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Recommends* that the second general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system be hosted in 1999 in the Caribbean region in order to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the agreed areas and issues and to hold consultations on additional measures and procedures as may be required to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organizations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community".

49th plenary meeting
29 October 1998

53/21. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the General Assembly for the year 1997,[44]

Noting the statement of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,[45] in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 1998,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency in promoting the further application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as envisaged in the statute of the Agency and in accordance with the inalienable right of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[46] and other relevant internationally legally binding agreements that have concluded relevant safeguards agreements with the Agency to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II and other relevant articles of the Treaty, and with the objectives and purposes thereof,

Conscious of the importance of the work of the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international treaties, conventions and agreements designed to achieve similar objectives, as well as in ensuring, as far as it is able, that the assistance provided by the Agency or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose, as stated in article II of its statute,

Reaffirming that the Agency is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring, in accordance with the statute and the safeguards system of the Agency, compliance with its safeguards agreements with States parties undertaken in fulfilment of their obligations under article III, paragraph 1, of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and also reaffirming that nothing should be done to undermine the authority of the Agency in this regard and that States parties that have concerns regarding non-compliance with the safeguards agreement of the Treaty by the States parties should direct such concerns, along with supporting evidence and information, to the Agency to consider, investigate, draw conclusions and decide on necessary actions in accordance with its mandate,

Stressing the need for the highest standards of safety in the design and operation of nuclear installations and in peaceful nuclear activities so as to minimize risks to life, health and the environment,

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[43] See A/52/1021–S/1998/785, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/785.

[44] International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1997* (Austria, July 1998) (GC(42)/5); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/53/286).

[45] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Plenary Meetings*, 50th meeting (A/53/PV.50), and corrigendum.

[46] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Considering that an expansion of technical cooperation activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world, recognizing the special needs of the developing countries for technical assistance from the Agency and the importance of funding in order to benefit effectively from the transfer and application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as well as from the contribution of nuclear energy to their economic development, and desiring that the resources of the Agency for technical cooperation activities be assured, predictable and sufficient to meet the objectives mandated in article II of its statute,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency on nuclear energy, applications of nuclear methods and techniques, nuclear safety, radiological protection and radioactive waste management, including its work directed towards assisting developing countries in all these fields,

Taking note of the report of the Director General to the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency[47] on the implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, of his reports to the Security Council of 15 January,[48] 9 April,[49] 27 July[50] and 7 October 1998[51] and of resolution GC(42)/RES/3 of 25 September 1998 of the General Conference,[52]

Taking note also of resolutions GOV/2711 of 21 March 1994 and GOV/2742 of 10 June 1994 of the Board of Governors and GC(42)/RES/2 of 25 September 1998 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[53] the statements by the President of the Security Council of 31 March,[54] 30 May[55] and 4 November 1994[56] and the authorization of the Board of Governors, on 11 November 1994, to the Director General, to carry out all the tasks requested of the Agency in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994,

Taking note of resolutions GC(42)/RES/4 on criteria or guidelines for consideration of requests for the restoration of voting rights, GC(42)/RES/10 on the Convention on Nuclear Safety, GC(42)/RES/11 on measures to address the year 2000 issue, GC(42)/RES/12 on the safety of radiation sources and the security of radioactive materials, GC(42)/RES/13 on the safety of transport of radioactive materials, GC(42)/RES/14 on the study of the radiological situation at the atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa, GC(42)/RES/15 on the strengthening of the technical cooperation activities of the Agency, GC(42)/RES/16 on the plan for producing potable water economically, GC(42)/RES/17 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Protocol, GC(42)/RES/18 on measures against illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources, GC(42)/RES/20 on the participation of Palestine in the work of the Agency and GC(42)/RES/21 on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, adopted on 25 September 1998 by the General Conference of the Agency at its forty-second regular session,

Taking note of resolution GC(42)/RES/19 on nuclear testing, adopted on 25 September 1998 by the General Conference of the Agency at its forty-second regular session,

Noting the statement by the President of the forty-second regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, which was endorsed by the General Conference during the tenth plenary meeting and issued under the item concerning Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat, that:

> "The General Conference recalls the statement by the President of the thirty-sixth session of the General Conference in 1992 concerning the item entitled 'Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat'. That statement considered it desirable not to consider that item at the thirty-seventh session. At the forty-second session, the item was, at the request of certain member States, reinscribed on the agenda. The item was discussed. The President notes that certain member States intend to include this item in the provisional agenda of the forty-third regular session of the General Conference",

Noting also the statement by the President of the forty-second regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, issued under item 17 concerning article VI of the statute of the Agency, in which the Board of Governors was urged to redouble its efforts to achieve a solution to that long-standing issue, pursuant to the mandate conferred on it by the Conference in resolution GC(41)/RES/20 of 3 October 1997 and decision GC(41)/DEC/10, and to report to the Conference at its forty-third regular session on a finalized formula, taking into account the progress achieved so far,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;[44]

2. *Affirms its confidence* in the role of the Agency in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

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[47] GC(42)/14.

[48] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1998*, document S/1998/38.

[49] Ibid., *Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/312.

[50] Ibid., *Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/694.

[51] Ibid., *Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/927.

[52] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-second Regular Session, 21–25 September 1998* (GC(42)/RES/DEC(1998)).

[53] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/403.

[54] *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1994*, document S/PRST/1994/13.

[55] Ibid., document S/PRST/1994/28.

[56] Ibid., document S/PRST/1994/64.

3. *Welcomes* the measures and decisions taken by the Agency to maintain and strengthen the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the safeguards system in conformity with the statute of the Agency, in particular, stressing the importance of the Model Additional Protocol approved on 15 May 1997, affirms that strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system with a view to detecting undeclared nuclear activities must be implemented rapidly and universally by all concerned States and other parties in compliance with their respective international commitments, and requests all concerned States and other parties to safeguards agreements to conclude additional protocols without delay;

4. *Urges* all States to strive for effective and harmonious international cooperation in carrying out the work of the Agency, pursuant to its statute, in promoting the use of nuclear energy and the application of the necessary measures to strengthen further the safety of nuclear installations and to minimize risks to life, health and the environment, in strengthening technical assistance and cooperation for developing countries and in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards systems of the Agency;

5. *Welcomes* the measures and decisions taken by the Agency to strengthen and fund its technical cooperation activities, which should contribute to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, and calls upon States to cooperate in implementing the measures and decisions pursuant thereto;

6. *Commends* the Director General and the secretariat of the Agency for their continuing, impartial efforts to implement the safeguards agreement still in force between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, recognizes the important role of the Agency in monitoring the freeze of nuclear facilities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as requested by the Security Council, expresses deep concern about the continuing non-compliance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the safeguards agreement, calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with that safeguards agreement and, to this end, urges it to cooperate fully with the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards agreement and to take all steps the Agency may deem necessary to preserve all information relevant to verifying the accuracy and completeness of the initial report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the inventory of nuclear material subject to safeguards;

7. *Also commends* the Director General of the Agency and his staff for their strenuous efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 707 (1991) of 15 August 1991, 715 (1991) of 11 October 1991, 1051 (1996) of 27 March 1996, 1060 (1996) of 12 June 1996, 1115 (1997) of 21 June 1997, 1154 (1998) of 2 March 1998 and 1194 (1998) of 9 September 1998, welcomes the report of the Director General of the Agency of 7 October 1998,[51] calls upon Iraq to cooperate fully with the Agency in accordance with its obligation under the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and the Secretary-General on 23 February 1998, as well as to resume a dialogue with the Agency immediately, and stresses that greater transparency by Iraq would contribute greatly to the resolution of the few remaining questions and concerns;

8. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 24 October 1996 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety,[57] appeals to all States to become parties to it so that it obtains the widest possible adherence, and expresses its satisfaction that an organizational meeting of the contracting parties was held from 29 September to 2 October 1998 and that a first review meeting will begin on 12 April 1999;

9. *Also welcomes* the measures taken by the Agency in support of efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources and, in this context, decides to bear in mind, while elaborating an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, the activities of the Agency in the prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in nuclear material and other radioactive sources;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

51st plenary meeting
2 November 1998

53/22. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, which, *inter alia*, call for collective effort to strengthen friendly relations among nations, remove threats to peace and foster international cooperation in resolving international issues of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Recognizing the diverse civilizational achievements of mankind, crystallizing cultural pluralism and creative human diversity,

Aware that positive and mutually beneficial interaction among civilizations has continued throughout human history despite impediments arising from intolerance, disputes and wars,

Emphasizing the importance of tolerance in international relations and the significant role of dialogue as a means to reach understanding, remove threats to peace and strengthen interaction and exchange among civilizations,

Noting the designation of 1995 as the United Nations Year for Tolerance, and recognizing that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate universal promotion and protection of human rights and constitute sound foundations for civil society, social harmony and peace,

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[57] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/449.

Reaffirming that civilizational achievements constitute the collective heritage of mankind, providing a source of inspiration and progress for humanity at large,

Welcoming the collective endeavour of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations on the threshold of the third millennium,

1. *Expresses its firm determination* to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations;

2. *Decides* to proclaim the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to plan and implement appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations, including through organizing conferences and seminars and disseminating information and scholarly material on the subject, and to inform the Secretary-General of their activities;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a provisional report on activities in this regard to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, and a final report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

53rd plenary meeting
4 November 1998

53/23. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[58]

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.

54th plenary meeting
10 November 1998

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the special report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[59]

Approves the special report of the Credentials Committee.

80th plenary meeting
7 December 1998

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the second report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[60]

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.

92nd plenary meeting
17 December 1998

53/24. International Year of Mountains, 2002

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/30 of 29 July 1998,[61]

Recalling also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 on sustainable mountain development,[62]

Noting the work already undertaken to achieve sustainable mountain development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and particularly its role as task manager for chapter 13 of Agenda 21,

1. *Proclaims* the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains, in collaboration with Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines of the Economic and Social Council for international years and anniversaries and to lend other forms of support to the International Year of Mountains;

4. *Encourages* all Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Mountains in order to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains.

54th plenary meeting
10 November 1998

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[58] A/53/556.

[59] A/53/726.

[60] A/53/556/Add.1.

[61] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 1* (E/1998/98).

[62] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

53/25. International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 proclaiming the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as its resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/54 of 17 April 1998 entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[63]

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004),

Taking into account the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace",

Aware that the task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society,

Recognizing that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of society throughout the world and that a culture of peace and non-violence promotes respect for the life and dignity of every human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind,

Recognizing also the role of education in constructing a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular the teaching of the practice of peace and non-violence to children, which will promote the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, by which children learn to live together in peace and harmony that will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation, should emanate from adults and be instilled in children,

Underlining that the proposed international decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world will contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles embodied in the Charter and on respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance, the promotion of development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women as an integral approach to preventing violence and conflicts, and efforts aimed at the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation,

Convinced that such a decade, at the beginning of the new millennium, would greatly assist the efforts of the international community to foster peace, harmony, all human rights, democracy and development throughout the world,

1. *Proclaims* the period 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and a draft programme of action to promote the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the activities of the Decade;

3. *Invites* Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence is taught at all levels in their respective societies, including in educational institutions;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and invites non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and groups, educational institutions, artists and the media actively to support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world;

5. *Decides* to consider, at its fifty-fifth session, the question of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010), under the agenda item entitled "Culture of peace".

55th plenary meeting
10 November 1998

53/26. Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997 on assistance in mine clearance, all adopted without a vote,

Considering mine action to be an important component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian problem caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded devices that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-infested countries and constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions,

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[63] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Reiterating its dismay at the high number of victims of mines, especially among civilian populations, particularly children, and recalling in this context Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/79 of 8 March 1995,[64] 1996/85 of 24 April 1996,[65] 1997/78 of 18 April 1997[66] and 1998/76 of 22 April 1998[67] on the rights of the child and resolutions 1996/27 of 19 April 1996[65] and 1998/31 of 17 April 1998[67] and decision 1997/107 of 11 April 1997[66] on the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year, as well as the presence of a large number of mines and other unexploded devices as a result of armed conflicts, and thus convinced of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat of landmines to civilians as soon as possible,

Noting the decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[68] particularly with respect to Protocol II of the Convention and the inclusion in the Amended Protocol[69] of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability,

Noting the entry into force of the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on 3 December 1998,

Recalling that the States parties at the Review Conference declared their commitment to keep the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all the problems of landmines,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, adopted at the Oslo Conference on 18 September 1997 and opened for signature at Ottawa on 3 December 1997, which, among other things, recognizes that States parties in a position to do so should provide assistance for mine-clearance and related activities, for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine-awareness programmes, has been signed by over one hundred and thirty States,

Noting also that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction will enter into force on 1 March 1999,

Encouraged by the initiatives taken at conferences held at Elsinore, Denmark, Bonn, Germany, and Tokyo, notably in relation to international standards and procedures for humanitarian mine-clearance operations, as well as the development of new technology for landmine detection and removal and the rehabilitation of landmine victims, which can serve as a basis on which to advance the safety, effectiveness and professionalism of these operations throughout the world,

Taking note of the Plan of Action on Landmines adopted at the First Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines, held at Kempton Park, South Africa, and the adoption at Harare by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity of a resolution on the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the issue of anti-personnel mines and international efforts to reach a total ban,[70]

Taking note also of the Agenda for Mine Action developed at the Mine Action Forum at Ottawa in December 1997, and of the outcome of the Workshop on Mine-Action Coordination held at Ottawa in March 1998,

Taking note further of the outcome of the Conference on Global Humanitarian Demining, held in Washington, D.C., in May 1998,

Noting the international conferences held recently on modern demining technology at Karlsruhe, Germany, and the Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy; on landmine injury and rehabilitation at Amman; on the implementation of treaty obligations in the armed forces at Vienna; and other relevant international meetings,

Noting also the International Forum on Demining and Victim Assistance, held at Phnom Penh in October 1998, which underlined the importance of ownership by mine-affected countries and their partnership with the international community in conducting mine-action activities in a suitable way towards the "zero victim goal",

Emphasizing the importance of recording the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcoming the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law,

Stressing the need to convince mine-affected countries to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines in order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations,

Recognizing the important role that the international community, particularly States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in affected countries through the provision of necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby traps,

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[64] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[65] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1996/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[66] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II.

[67] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[68] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

[69] Ibid., annex B.

[70] See A/52/465, annex I.

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded devices pose to the safety, health and lives of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,

Aware that the rate of mine clearance needs to accelerate substantially if the global landmine problem is to be tackled effectively,

Concerned about the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment as well as the need for effective global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote further and more rapid progress in this field and to foster international technical cooperation to this end,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has an important role in the field of assistance in mine action,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-clearance work carried out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in the context of such operations,

Commending the activities already undertaken by the United Nations system, donor and recipient Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded devices, as well as their assistance to victims of mines,

Also commending the role of the Secretary-General in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines, and in the establishment of the central landmine database and inventories of mine-awareness materials and mine-clearance techniques,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations in assistance in mine clearance;[71]

2. *Welcomes*, in particular, the efforts made by the United Nations to foster the establishment of mine-clearance capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population, and, emphasizing the importance of developing national mine-clearance capacities, urges all Member States and regional organizations, particularly those that have the capacity to do so, to assist mine-affected countries in the establishment and development of their national mine-clearance capacities;

3. *Invites* Member States to develop national programmes, in cooperation with regional organizations and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system where appropriate, to promote awareness of landmines, especially among children;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments and regional organizations for their financial contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and other demining programmes, and appeals to them to continue this support through further contributions;

5. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine action in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national ownership, sustainability and capacity-building;

6. *Stresses* the importance of international support for emergency assistance to victims of mines and the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of such victims;

7. *Emphasizes again* the important role of the United Nations in the effective coordination of mine-action activities, including those by regional organizations, and welcomes in this regard the policy on mine action and effective coordination developed by the Secretary-General in annex II to his report,[71] which encapsulates the key principles on which United Nations mine action is based and clarifies roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to develop further a comprehensive mine-action strategy, taking into consideration the impact of the landmine problem on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of assistance in mine action by the United Nations, and emphasizes in this respect the importance of further multisectoral assessments and surveys;

9. *Welcomes* the creation of the United Nations Mine Action Service within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, its designation as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system, and its ongoing collaboration with and coordination of all mine-related activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;

10. *Urges* Member States, regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in mine action, particularly in mine awareness, training, surveying, mine detection and clearance, scientific research on mine-detection and mine-clearance technology, and assistance to victims, including information on and distribution of medical equipment and supplies;

11. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those that have the capacity to do so, to provide the necessary information and technical and material assistance, as appropriate, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps and other devices in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

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[71] A/53/496.

12. *Urges* Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-infested countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-clearance techniques and technology so that mine-clearance activities may be carried out more effectively at lower cost and through safer means and to promote international collaboration in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-clearance activities, including the early follow-up of the International Conference on Mine-Clearance Technology;[72]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined both in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and in the present resolution, and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and other demining programmes;

15. *Suggests* in this regard that the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance be renamed Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

60th plenary meeting
17 November 1998

53/27. Bethlehem 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling the fact that the Palestinian city of Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus Christ and one of the most historic and significant sites on earth,

Noting that the world will celebrate in Bethlehem, a city of peace, the onset of the new millennium in a global vision of hope for all peoples,

Stressing the monumental importance of the event for the Palestinian people, for the peoples of the region and for the international community as a whole, as it comprises significant religious, historical and cultural dimensions,

Aware of the Bethlehem 2000 project as a multifaceted undertaking for commemoration of the event, which will begin at Christmas, 1999, and conclude at Easter, 2001,

Aware also of the needed assistance with regard to the above-mentioned project, and expressing appreciation for the steps taken towards increasing the engagement and participation of the international community, including donor countries, and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as the European Commission, religious institutions and others,

Expressing the need for immediate change in the situation on the ground in the vicinity of Bethlehem, especially with regard to ensuring freedom of movement,

Stressing the need for ensuring free and unhindered access to the holy places in Bethlehem to the faithful of all religions and the citizens of all nationalities,

Expressing the hope for rapid progress in the Middle East peace process and the achievement of the final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides within the agreed time, so that the millennium may be celebrated most appropriately in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation,

1. *Welcomes* the impending arrival of this global, historic celebration in Bethlehem of the birth of Jesus Christ and the onset of the third millennium as a symbol of the shared hope for peace among all peoples of the world;

2. *Expresses support* for the Bethlehem 2000 project and commends the efforts undertaken by the Palestinian Authority in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance given by the international community in support of the Bethlehem 2000 project, and calls for increased assistance and engagement by the international community as a whole, including private sector participation, to ensure the success of the Bethlehem 2000 project and the fruition of this monumental commemoration;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the pertinent organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to ensure the success of the Bethlehem 2000 project;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Bethlehem 2000" so that the General Assembly may have a renewed opportunity to reaffirm its further support for the event immediately prior to the occasion of its commemoration.

61st plenary meeting
18 November1998

53/28. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/139 of 17 December 1991, 47/92 of 16 December 1992, 48/100 of 20 December 1993, 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/202 of 17 December 1996 and 52/25 of 26 November 1997,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991, resolutions 1992/27 of 30 July 1992, 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, 1996/36 of 26 July 1996, 1997/56 of 23 July 1997 and 1998/44 and 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 and agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, 1996/1 of 26 July 1996 and 1997/1 of 25 July 1997,

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[72] See A/51/472, annex.

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments adopted by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[73] and the Programme of Action,[74] and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all;

2. *Expresses its profound concern* at the seriousness of the current economic crisis in many regions of the world and of its negative social and economic consequences, demonstrating the necessity to implement fully the commitments made at the Summit, and reaffirms the need to continue to evaluate the impact of structural adjustment programmes by, *inter alia*, integrating the social dimensions involved;

3. *Emphasizes* the urgency of placing the goals of social development as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action at the centre of economic policy-making, including policies influencing domestic and global market forces and the global economy;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need for revitalized economic and social development everywhere within a framework that places people at the centre of development and aims to meet human needs rapidly and more effectively by, *inter alia*, enhancing positive interaction between economic and social policies, and stresses the need for strong, sustained political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development;

5. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[75] the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)[76] and the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty;[77]

Critical importance of national action and international cooperation for social development

6. *Stresses* that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments and that strengthened and coordinated international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation;

7. *Reiterates* that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment so as to achieve the goals of social development;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments and the United Nations system to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on social development;

9. *Reiterates the call* of the Summit for Governments to assess on a regular basis national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, and encourages Governments to provide information using the Secretary-General's guidelines for national reporting on the progress made and obstacles encountered, in the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action;

10. *Considers* as a positive step towards greater cooperation and strengthened partnership among members of the international community the convening of its high-level meeting on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, held on 17 and 18 September 1998, on the overall theme of "the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications";

Mobilization of financial resources

11. *Reaffirms* that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component for the comprehensive and effective implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

12. *Calls upon* all countries to develop economic policies that promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment and to seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes, while ensuring their effective utilization, and in the budgetary process, to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources and to give priority to providing and improving basic social services;

13. *Expresses concern* that the volatility of short-term capital flows can have negative consequences for social development, undermining the goals of the Summit and setting back progress in its implementation, in particular in developing countries, and underlines the need to study the ways and means to address the problem;

14. *Reaffirms* that a strong political commitment by the international community is needed to implement strengthened international cooperation for development, including social development, that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component for the comprehensive and effective implementation of development, that enhanced efforts should be made for the mobilization and provision of new and additional financial resources for the development of developing countries and that, despite an increase in private capital flows, official development assistance remains an essential source of external funding, and notes that developed countries reaffirm the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and 0.15 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance for the least developed countries, that donor countries that have met

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[73] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[74] Ibid., annex II.

[75] A/53/211.

[76] A/53/329.

[77] A/53/223 and Add.1.

the 0.15 per cent target will seek to undertake to reach 0.20 per cent, and that further efforts are also needed to improve the effectiveness of official development assistance and to focus such aid on the poorest countries;

15. *Also reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus to support their efforts to achieve social development and, in this context, reaffirms the need to make further progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Summit by the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

17. *Recognizes* the necessity of providing appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition, as set out in the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action;

Involvement of civil society and other actors

18. *Reaffirms* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21,[78] including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and the Programme of Action, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

19. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to continue to participate in the work of the Commission for Social Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and decisions 1996/315 of 14 November 1996 and 1997/298 of 23 July 1997, and in the implementation process related to the Summit to the maximum extent possible;

Role of the United Nations system

20. *Welcomes* resolution 36/1 adopted by the Commission for Social Development on the priority theme "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons" and the agreed conclusions contained therein;[79]

21. *Also welcomes* the ministerial communiqué adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1998 on "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization"[80] and Council decision 1998/298 of 5 August 1998, in which it decided to dedicate the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1999 to "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women";

22. *Recalls* the session of the Economic and Social Council on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations international conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998 and, in this regard, takes note of Council resolution 1998/44, as well as decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998, entitled "Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields";

23. *Welcomes* the efforts of funds and programmes in assisting countries in implementing all Summit commitments at the national, regional and international levels;

24. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of Summit commitments aimed at the eradication of poverty, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries;

25. *Further welcomes* the contribution of the International Labour Organization on the implementation of the Summit commitments, particularly relating to its activities in promoting expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment as part of promoting social development;

26. *Takes into account* that the Commission for Social Development will examine at its thirty-seventh session, in 1999, the theme "Social services for all", and emphasizes the importance of the continued involvement and support by funds and programmes as well as specialized agencies, notably the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the promotion and attainment of the Summit commitment of promoting universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care;

27. *Urges* the continued involvement and support by the regional commissions in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the Summit at the regional and subregional levels, and reiterates its invitation to the commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to continue to convene on a biennial basis meetings at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views, to identify and share best practices and lessons learned and to identify additional initiatives to strengthen implementation;

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[78] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[79] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 6* (E/1998/26–E/CN.5/1998/7), chap. I, sect. B.

[80] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV.

28. *Welcomes* in this context the convening of subregional meetings by the Economic Commission for Africa in December 1998 and in 1999, and a regional meeting by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in December 1998 to evaluate the follow-up of the Summit in their regions;

Special session of the General Assembly and its preparatory process

29. *Recalls* its resolution 50/161, in which it decided to hold a special session in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

30. *Also recalls* its resolution 52/25, in which it decided to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

31. *Takes note* of the report and decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives;[81]

32. *Reiterates* that the objectives of the special session will be to reaffirm the Declaration and the Programme of Action agreed at the Summit and not to renegotiate them, to identify progress made and constraints therein, as well as lessons learned, in the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and to recommend concrete actions and initiatives to further efforts towards full and effective implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action;

33. *Recalls* the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives as adopted in decision 53/405 of 7 October 1998;

34. *Reaffirms* the need to integrate a gender perspective in all aspects of the preparatory work as well as in the special session;

35. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the Commission for Social Development, which has primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action, be entrusted with the responsibility of acting as the forum for national reporting, benefiting from the sharing of experiences gained and thus in 1999 and 2000 identifying areas where further initiatives are needed, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee;[82]

36. *Reaffirms* the decision of the Preparatory Committee that its substantive activities should take into account the results of other major United Nations conferences and contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in time for the respective substantive sessions of the Committee;[83]

37. *Invites* all relevant organs, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to and be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session by submitting contributions for the overall assessment of the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments as well as by, *inter alia*, submitting proposals for further actions and initiatives;

38. *Invites* the International Labour Organization, which because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development, to be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session, to contribute to the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further action and initiatives therein;

39. *Invites* Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in order to support the participation of the least developed countries in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the special session, and the work undertaken by the Secretariat in the preparations for the special session;

Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the special session

40. *Takes note* of the decision of the Preparatory Committee to hold its first substantive session in New York from 17 to 28 May 1999 and its second session, also in New York, from 3 to 14 April 2000;[84]

41. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee should establish an in-session open-ended working group during the second week of its first substantive session to facilitate consultations on organizational matters related to the special session;

42. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session;[85]

43. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Switzerland to convene the special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

44. *Decides* that the special session will be held at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

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[81] Ibid., *Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45).

[82] Ibid., chap. VI, sect. B, decision 3 (*a*).

[83] Ibid., decision 4.

[84] Ibid., decision 6 (*b*).

[85] A/53/210.

46. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

62nd plenary meeting
19 November 1998

53/30. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The General Assembly,

Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, *determines* not to adopt any resolution or decision on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, without the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the Members of the General Assembly.

66th plenary meeting
23 November 1998

53/31. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[86] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling the Manila Declaration[87] adopted by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies[88] in June 1988,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration[89] and Plan of Action[90] adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994, as well as its resolutions 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996 and 52/18 of 21 November 1997,

Recalling also the document entitled "Progress Review and Recommendations", adopted by the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development, held at Bucharest from 2 to 4 September 1997,[91] in which guidelines, principles and recommendations were addressed to Governments, civil society, the private sector, donor countries and international community,

Noting in particular the recommendations contained in that document addressed to the United Nations system and the international financial organizations,[92]

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance organized in 1998, as well as those currently being planned, under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Taking note of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this question at its forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Also bearing in mind that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will be held at Cotonou, Benin, in the year 2000,

Stressing the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[93] and its focus on innovative ways and means to enable the Organization to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to requests of Member States for assistance in the field of good governance and democratization,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[93]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the activities carried out by the United Nations system, as well as the observations

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[86] Resolution 217 A (III).

[87] A/43/538, annex.

[88] Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.

[89] A/49/713, annex I.

[90] Ibid., annex II.

[91] A/52/334, appendix.

[92] Ibid., sect. IV.

[93] A/53/554 and Corr.1.

and recommendations contained in the report, with respect to building a political culture through human rights observance, mobilization of civil society, electoral assistance, free and independent media, enhancing the rule of law and improving accountability, transparency and quality of public sector management and democratic structures of government;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute actively to the follow-up process of the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;[94]

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy;

5. *Welcomes* the measures taken within the organizations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for coordinating their work carried out in the field of democratization;

6. *Welcomes also* the work carried out by the follow-up mechanism to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;

7. *Recognizes* that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts;

8. *Stresses* that the activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

67th plenary meeting
23 November 1998

53/32. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 50/23 of 5 December 1995, 51/34 of 9 December 1996 and 52/26 of 26 November 1997 adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[95] ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[96] ("the Agreement"), provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Noting with satisfaction that "Oceans and seas" will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session in 1999,

Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[97] as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, in particular paragraph 36 thereof dealing with oceans and seas,[98]

Recalling that, by its resolution 49/131 of 19 December 1994, it proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement,

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Taking note with concern of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

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[94] Ibid., chap. II.

[95] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[96] Resolution 48/263, annex.

[97] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[98] Resolution S–19/2, annex.

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Conscious also of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

Taking account of the importance of reliable hydrographic and nautical information to enhance the safety of navigation,

Expressing its concern at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[99] and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;

2. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 19 to 28 May 1999, during which, on 24 May, the election of seven judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") will take place;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Tribunal, established in accordance with annex VI to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997;

7. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority"), and emphasizes the importance of continued progress towards the adoption of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Authority and the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the Tribunal;

11. *Appeals* to all members of the Authority and all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") during its third[100] and fourth[101] sessions, held in New York from 4 to 15 May and from 31 August to 4 September 1998, respectively, in adopting its rules of procedure and in adopting provisionally its scientific and technical guidelines aimed at assisting States to prepare their submissions regarding the outer limits of their continental shelf;

13. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission in New York from 3 to 14 May and from 30 August to 3 September 1999, respectively;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea[99] and for the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds

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[99] A/53/456.

[100] CLCS/7.

[101] CLCS/9.

to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing advice and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide timely information on the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet;[102]

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

19. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, and to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;

20. *Notes with interest* the ongoing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

21. *Invites* States to cooperate in carrying out hydrographic surveys and nautical services for the purpose of ensuring safe navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their activities so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale;

22. *Urges* all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. *Calls upon* States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that organization;

24. *Takes note* of the work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and of its report entitled "The Ocean ... Our Future", and welcomes its issuance in the context of the International Year of the Ocean;

25. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

26. *Reaffirms also* its decision, in resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, to consider the results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas" in 1999, under the agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea";

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to circulate the report sufficiently in advance of consideration by the General Assembly of the item concerning oceans and the law of the sea;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

69th plenary meeting
24 November 1998

53/33. Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/215 of 20 December 1991, 49/116 and 49/118 of 19 December 1994, 51/36 of 9 December 1996 and 52/29 of 26 November 1997, as well as other resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[103]

Emphasizing the useful role that report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world's marine living resources, provided by States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional fisheries organizations, and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that, while significant work remains, interested parties have made real progress towards sustainable fisheries management,

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[102] www.un.org/Depts/los.

[103] A/53/473.

Welcoming the progress in organizing new regional organizations and arrangements in several heretofore unmanaged fisheries,

Noting that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that 60 to 70 per cent of world fisheries are either fully exploited or overfished, and encouraging, in this regard, the current intergovernmental negotiating process at that organization to address the issue of fishing overcapacity,

Noting with concern the reports of continued loss of sea birds, particularly albatross, as a result of incidental mortality from long-line fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, including sharks and fin-fish species, as a result of incidental mortality,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution and with the duties of States to cooperate in the conservation and management of marine living resources, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[104]

Once again expressing concern at the impact of large-scale drift-net fishing on the marine living resources of the oceans and seas, and noting that there are continuing reports of activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215,

Concerned also to ensure that the implementation of resolution 46/215 in some parts of the world does not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift-nets that contravene the resolution,

Expressing concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in areas under national jurisdiction on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly developing States, and the continuing reports of unauthorized fishing activities, inconsistent with the terms of resolution 49/116, in zones of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, pursuant to a proposal made at the twenty-second session of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in March 1997, that organization agreed to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action aiming at a reduction in the incidental catch of sea birds, to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action for the conservation and effective management of shark populations, and to hold a technical consultation on the management of fishing capacity to draft guidelines for the control and management of fishing capacities,

Noting with satisfaction that the Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and the Incidental Catch of Sea Birds, held from 26 to 30 October 1998, and its preparatory meeting, held in July 1998, produced draft plans of action or elements thereof for approval at the February 1999 meeting of the Committee on Fisheries,

Recognizing the importance of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[105] and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and noting that neither of these agreements has yet entered into force,

Noting that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including guidelines for fishing on the high seas and in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards,

Recalling that Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[106] calls upon States to take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter reflagging of vessels by their nationals as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management rules for fishing vessels on the high seas,

Noting with satisfaction that "Oceans and seas" will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session in 1999,

1. *Reaffirms the importance* it attaches to sustainable management and conservation of the marine living resources of the world's oceans and seas, and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on cooperation set out in part V and part VII, section 2, of the Convention regarding straddling stocks, highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous stocks and marine living resources of the high seas;

2. *Also reaffirms the importance* it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118 and 52/29, and urges States and other entities to enforce fully such measures;

3. *Requests* all participants to work for the adoption of the outcomes of the technical consultation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome from 26 to 30 October 1998, and encourages all States to act responsibly, as appropriate, at national, regional and global

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[104] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[105] A/CONF.164/37; see also A/50/550, annex I.

[106] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

levels to implement the action plans or the guidelines, in particular those for the management of fishing capacity, once adopted by the Committee on Fisheries;

4. *Calls upon* States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[105] that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time, and to consider applying it provisionally;

5. *Also calls upon* States and other entities referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas that have not submitted instruments of acceptance of the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time;

6. *Urges* all authorities of members of the international community that have not done so to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas, and to impose appropriate sanctions, consistent with their obligations under international law, against acts contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215;

7. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to take measures, including measures to deter reflagging to avoid compliance with applicable obligations, to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags do not fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the authorities of the State concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and do not fish on the high seas in contravention of the applicable conservation and management rules;

8. *Urges* States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action, including through assistance to developing countries, to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

9. *Reiterates its call* on organizations with development assistance programmes to make it a high priority to support, including through financial and/or technical assistance, the efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated, that any duplication of activities and reporting is minimized, and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 52/29, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 52/29, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments".

69th plenary meeting
24 November 1998

53/34. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South

Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region;

2. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, in particular actions that may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[107] submitted in accordance with its resolution 52/14 of 20 November 1997;

4. *Recalls* the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone, held in Brasilia in 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[108] to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the holding of the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone in Buenos Aires, on 21 and 22 October 1998, and takes note of the Final Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the meeting;[109]

6. *Welcomes* the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[110] and the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[111]

7. *Also welcomes* the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,[112] adopted in November 1997, as well as the decision on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons taken by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held in Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998;[113]

8. *Further welcomes* the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and in that regard commends the active efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and the States that have contributed to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group;

9. *Welcomes* the agreement reached in Abuja on 1 November 1998[114] by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta as a positive step towards national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, and in that context commends the mediation efforts conducted by the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, and calls upon the Government and the so-called junta to abide by the agreement;

10. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Nigeria to carry out the plan for transition to general elections and the establishment of new democratic structures, and welcomes the action of the Government in releasing political prisoners as well as the continued progress being made in the observance of human rights in that country;

11. *Views with concern* the present armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, stresses the need to respect the territorial integrity of that country, urges the parties to that conflict and the States that have offered their good offices to bring hostilities to an end and to spare no effort in the negotiations leading to the restoration of peace, welcomes the positive response by the Southern African Development Community to the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide assistance in the restoration of peace and stability in that country, and also welcomes the decision of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to conduct elections in that country in June 1999;

12. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by the Government of Angola in implementing the Lusaka Protocol,[115] and reiterates that the primary cause of the crisis in Angola and of the current impasse in the peace process is the failure by the leadership of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola to comply with its obligations under the "Acordos de Paz",[116] the Lusaka Protocol and relevant Security Council resolutions;

13. *Reaffirms* its willingness to contribute by all means at its disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola;

14. *Urges* the international community and all relevant international and private organizations to fulfil expeditiously their pledges to provide assistance to facilitate the demobilization and social reintegration of ex-combatants, the demining process, the resettlement of displaced persons and the reconstruction of the Angolan economy in order to consolidate the gains in the peace process;

15. *Commends* the efforts of Member States and humanitarian organizations in rendering humanitarian assistance to Angola and Sierra Leone, and urges them to continue to provide and to increase such assistance;

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[107] A/53/488.

[108] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[109] A/53/650, annex.

[110] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[111] See A/50/426, annex.

[112] A/53/78, annex.

[113] A/53/179, annex I.

[114] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1028.

[115] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1441.

[116] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*, document S/22609.

16. *Affirms* the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[117]

17. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts towards the achievement of appropriate regulation of maritime transport of radioactive and toxic wastes, taking into account the interests of coastal States, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regulations of the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

18. *Views with concern* the increase in drug trafficking and related crimes, including drug abuse, and calls upon the States members of the zone to promote regional cooperation to combat all aspects of the problem of drugs and related offences;

19. *Recognizes*, in the light of the number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance by States members of the zone, so as to ensure a timely and effective response;

20. *Welcomes* the offer by Benin to host the sixth meeting of the States members of the zone;

21. *Requests* the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

70th plenary meeting
25 November 1998

53/35. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/242 of 25 August 1992, 47/1 of 22 September 1992, 47/121 of 18 December 1992, 48/88 of 20 December 1993, 49/10 of 3 November 1994, 51/203 of 17 December 1996 and 52/150 of 15 December 1997 and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Reaffirming its support for the independence, sovereignty, legal continuity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders,

Also reaffirming its support for the equality of the three constituent peoples and others in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a united country with two multi-ethnic entities,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"), signed in Paris on 14 December 1995,[118]

Also welcoming the efforts for the respect, promotion and protection of human rights in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the functioning of the common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement,

Supporting those institutions and organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina which are engaged in implementation of the Peace Agreement and the process of reconciliation and reintegration,

Concerned by the continuing obstructions faced by refugees and displaced persons wishing to return to their homes, in particular in areas where they would be an ethnic minority, emphasizing the need for all parties and the relevant States and international organizations to create the conditions necessary to facilitate return, and stressing the need for a regional approach to the issue of refugees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the results of the Sarajevo and Banja Luka conferences on return, and urging the authorities to accelerate implementation of those results and remove immediately all remaining political, legal and administrative obstacles to minority returns,

Expressing its support for the efforts of the Coalition for Return and the Inter-Religious Council in facilitating the objectives of annex 7 of the Peace Agreement,

Supporting fully the efforts of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, stressing the importance and urgency of the work of the International Tribunal as an element of the process of reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region as a whole, demanding that States and parties to the Peace Agreement meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the Tribunal, as required by Security Council resolutions 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995 and 1207 (1998) of 17 November 1998, including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the Tribunal, and welcoming the efforts to secure compliance with the orders of the Tribunal, consistent with the Security Council mandate,

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[117] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[118] See A/50/790–S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

Having considered the fifth annual report of the International Tribunal, noting that the reporting period has been characterized by a substantial improvement over previous years with respect to execution of the Tribunal's orders and compliance with obligations under international law, also noting that much remains to be done by entities and States in the area, and welcoming the efforts of the High Representative for Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Commander of the Stabilization Force in implementing the provisions of the Peace Agreement,

Noting that most indictees at large are known or are believed to remain free in the territory of the Republika Srpska, an entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, expressing grave concern over the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to ignore relevant obligations under international law, particularly through its refusal to arrest and surrender persons indicted by the International Tribunal, and also noting that there have been some positive signs on the part of the Republika Srpska for willingness to cooperate with the Tribunal,

Commending the work of the International Commission on Missing Persons, and urging the parties to cooperate more effectively to clarify the fate of all missing persons,

Welcoming the mutual recognition among all the successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and stressing the importance of full normalization of relations, including the unconditional establishment of diplomatic relations among those States in accordance with the Peace Agreement and the settlement of all issues relating to the succession of the former Yugoslavia, in order to contribute to the achievement of lasting peace and stability in the area,

Welcoming the signing of the agreement on the establishment of an Inter-State Council for Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of Special Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[119]

Also welcoming the signing of the Agreement on Free Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Croatia to and from the Port of Ploce and through the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina at Neum,[120] and emphasizing its importance with respect to the economic benefit to the two countries and the comprehensive bilateral relationship between them,

Further welcoming the signing of the Protocol on the Introduction of Traffic in Internal Navigable Waterways on the Sava River and its Tributaries between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and annex 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Joint Reconstruction of Traffic Links between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Stressing the importance of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for the success of the peace efforts for the region, and calling upon the Governments and the authorities in the region, as well as relevant international organizations, to facilitate such full respect,

Noting that democratization in the region will enhance the prospects for a lasting peace and help to guarantee full respect for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Welcoming the successful holding of general elections throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 12 and 13 September 1998, and looking forward to the rapid implementation of the election results,

Noting the positive impact of the four previous pledging conferences, held on 21 December 1995, 13 and 14 April 1996, 25 July 1997 and 8 and 9 May 1998 and chaired by the World Bank and the European Union, on the peace process and reintegration of the country as well as the reconstruction effort, stressing the importance and urgency of providing the pledged financial assistance and technical cooperation for reconstruction efforts, and stressing the role of economic revitalization in the process of reconciliation, in the improvement of living conditions and in the maintenance of a durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Stressing that the provision of reconstruction aid and financial assistance is conditional upon the parties meeting their obligations under the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming in particular the important efforts of the European Union and bilateral and other donors to provide humanitarian and economic assistance for reconstruction,

Welcoming the European Union Declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina of 8 June 1998, setting out the prospects for closer cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union and the creation of the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina Consultative Task Force,

Underlining that the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement is vital for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing the importance of demining for the normalization of life and for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons,

1. *Expresses its full support* for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[118] which constitutes the key mechanism for the achievement of a durable and just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading to stability and cooperation in the region and the reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels;

2. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of certain aspects of the Peace Agreement, including the establishment of a lasting cessation of hostilities, the introduction of a new flag, passports, common licence plates and a common currency, the implementation of the municipal elections held on 13 and 14 September 1997, and the holding of free and fair

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[119] See A/53/702–S/1998/1118, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1118.

[120] Ibid., annex II.

elections on 12 and 13 September 1998 throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. *Reiterates its demands* for the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

4. *Supports fully* the coordinated efforts of the High Representative in the implementation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Peace Agreement, and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully and in good faith with him;

5. *Reaffirms* the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference,[121] held at Bonn, Germany, on 9 and 10 December 1997, and calls upon all parties as signatories to the Peace Agreement and others concerned to implement fully those conclusions, including compliance with the decisions of the High Representative, and to continue to work for a peaceful, reintegrated and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Peace Agreement;

6. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, held in Luxembourg on 9 June 1998,[122] and demands their full implementation;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully, and in good faith, in ensuring substantial functioning of all of the common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and urges the relevant international organizations to continue to provide assistance to meet the infrastructural needs of the common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

8. *Recognizes* that responsibility for consolidating the peace lies primarily with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as was confirmed in particular in the joint declaration adopted at Geneva on 14 August 1996;

9. *Also recognizes* that the role of the international community remains essential, and welcomes the readiness of the international community to continue its efforts towards a self-sustaining peace;

10. *Underlines* that the assistance provided by the international community remains strictly conditional upon compliance with the Peace Agreement and subsequent obligations, including, in particular, cooperation with the International Tribunal and facilitation of the return of refugees and displaced persons;

11. *Welcomes* the vital contribution of the multinational Stabilization Force in providing a secure environment for the implementation of civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement, calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with it, and in this context, welcomes the authorization by the Security Council of the extension of the mandate of the Force;

12. *Expresses its full support* for the efforts of the United Nations International Police Task Force in carrying out its mandate, and calls for the fullest cooperation by all parties in this regard;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement, including cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal, the establishment of the necessary conditions for the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons and the establishment of the necessary conditions for freedom of movement;

14. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of the 1997 municipal elections in the overwhelming majority of municipalities, requests the full implementation of the results, and urges the elected authorities to work in a spirit of reconciliation;

15. *Underlines* the importance of establishing, strengthening and expanding throughout all of Bosnia and Herzegovina free and pluralistic media, welcomes the establishment of the Independent Media Commission in order to promote free, independent and fully restructured media, and stresses the importance of continuing the implementation and development of a truly public television broadcasting service throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina;

16. *Insists upon* the need to surrender all indictees to the International Tribunal for trial, notes that the Tribunal has the authority to address individual responsibility for the perpetration of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demands that all the parties fulfil their obligations to hand over to the Tribunal all indicted persons in territories under their control and otherwise to comply fully with the orders of the Tribunal and to cooperate with the work of the Tribunal, including with exhumations and other investigative acts, in accordance with article 29 of the statute of the Tribunal, with all relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

17. *Welcomes* the support given by Member States so far and urges Member States, taking into account the orders and requests of the International Tribunal, to offer the Tribunal their full support, including financial support, in order to ensure the completion of the purpose of the Tribunal, and to carry out their obligations under the statute of the Tribunal and all relevant Security Council resolutions;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, by 1 September 1999, a comprehensive report, including an assessment, on the events dating from the establishment of the safe area of Srebrenica on 16 April 1993 under Security Council resolution 819 (1993) of 16 April 1993, which was followed by the establishment of other safe areas, until the endorsement of the Peace Agreement by the Security Council under resolution 1031 (1995) of 15 December 1995, bearing in mind the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the proceedings of the International Tribunal in this respect, and encourages Member States and others concerned to provide relevant information;

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[121] See A/52/728–S/1997/979, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1997*, document S/1997/979.

[122] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/498.

19. *Reaffirms once again* the right of refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes of origin in accordance with the Peace Agreement, in particular its annex 7, and the realization of the same in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and host countries, calls upon all parties to improve substantially their cooperation with the international community at the State, entity and local levels, in order to establish immediately the conditions necessary for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and for the freedom of movement and communication of all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and upon the relevant international organizations to enhance the conditions to facilitate return, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement and its annexes, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomes continued and new efforts by the United Nations agencies, the European Union, bilateral and other donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to establish and implement projects designed to facilitate the early voluntary and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to all regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including projects that would help to create a safe and secure environment with increased economic opportunity;

20. *Encourages* the acceleration of the peaceful, orderly and phased return of refugees and displaced persons, including to areas where they would be in the ethnic minority, strongly condemns all acts of intimidation, violence and killings, including those acts designed to discourage the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, and demands that such acts be investigated and prosecuted;

21. *Reaffirms once again its support* for the principle that all statements and commitments made under duress, in particular those regarding land and property, are wholly null and void, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and supports the effective engagement of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, in compliance with its mandate;

22. *Urges* the adoption and effective implementation of new non-discriminatory property and housing legislation in both entities in order to enable refugees and displaced persons to return to their pre-war homes;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of economic revitalization and reconstruction for the successful consolidation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

24. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the international community, and invites it to continue to improve coordination;

25. *Stresses* the need for a more comprehensive approach to economic reform, which should contribute to the more homogeneous development of economy and trade in the two entities and across the inter-entity boundary line;

26. *Stresses* the importance of establishing an economic programme that should include the creation of a framework for private-sector development, including privatization and improvement of foreign investment conditions, the restructuring of banking and capital markets, the reform of the financial system and adequate social protection;

27. *Welcomes* the progress made in implementing the decision of the Brcko Arbitration Board, stresses that the obligation to cooperate fully with the Supervisor for Brcko and his decisions is an essential obligation for both entities, and notes that the outcome of the Arbitration Award will be significantly affected by the degree of compliance shown by the parties;

28. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of articles II and IV of the Agreement on Regional Stabilization and the successful graduation to article V, and urges all parties to continue to pursue the full implementation of their obligations;

29. *Stresses* the need for timely information about the level of cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal and its orders, the status and programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the status and implementation of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control;

30. *Welcomes* the efforts of international and regional organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, including through the Board of Donors, as well as the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the field of mine action and, in this context, also welcomes the recent transfer of the responsibilities for the national mine-action programme to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the establishment of the Slovenian International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and invites Member States to continue to support the mine-action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

31. *Commends* the efforts of the international community, including the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Community Monitoring Mission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Monetary Fund, the multinational Stabilization Force, non-governmental organizations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Peace Implementation Council and the World Bank, in their roles in the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

32. *Commends in particular* the efforts of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the Office of the High Representative for Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations International Police Task Force, the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Development Programme and the other United Nations agencies in the peace process, and encourages their further engagement in the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

72nd plenary meeting
30 November 1998

53/37. Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/120 E of 10 December 1981, 37/123 C of 16 December 1982, 38/180 C of 19 December 1983, 39/146 C of 14 December 1984, 40/168 C of 16 December 1985, 41/162 C of 4 December 1986, 42/209 D of 11 December 1987, 43/54 C of 6 December 1988, 44/40 C of 4 December 1989, 45/83 C of 13 December 1990, 46/82 B of 16 December 1991, 47/63 B of 11 December 1992, 48/59 A of 14 December 1993, 49/87 A of 16 December 1994, 50/22 A of 4 December 1995, 51/27 of 4 December 1996 and 52/53 of 9 December 1997, in which it determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" and called upon those States which had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[123]

1. *Determines* that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;

2. *Deplores* the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980) and their refusal to comply with the provisions of that resolution;

3. *Calls once more upon* those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/38. The situation in the Middle East: the Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[124]

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[125] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening at Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

2. *Declares also* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907,[126] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of

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[123] A/53/550.

[124] Ibid.

[125] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[126] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

12 August 1949,[125] continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/39. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976, 32/40 A of 2 December 1977, 33/28 A and B of 7 December 1978, 34/65 A of 29 November 1979 and 34/65 C of 12 December 1979, ES–7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/169 A and C of 15 December 1980, 36/120 A and C of 10 December 1981, ES–7/4 of 28 April 1982, 37/86 A of10 December 1982, 38/58 A of 13 December 1983, 39/49 A of 11 December 1984, 40/96 A of 12 December 1985, 41/43 A of 2 December 1986, 42/66 A of 2 December 1987, 43/175 A of 15 December 1988, 44/41 A of 6 December 1989, 45/67 A of 6 December 1990, 46/74 A of 11 December 1991, 47/64 A of 11 December 1992, 48/158 A of 20 December 1993, 49/62 A of 14 December 1994, 50/84 A of 15 December 1995, 51/23 of 4 December 1996 and 52/49 of 9 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[127]

Recalling the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[128] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[129]

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with respect to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly;

2. *Considers* that the Committee can continue to make a valuable and positive contribution to international efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[128] and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter VII of its report;[127]

4. *Requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate;

5. *Authorizes* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize support and assistance for the Palestinian people and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and thereafter;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other non-governmental organizations in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and for a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, and to involve additional non-governmental organizations in its work;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

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[127] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/53/35).

[128] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[129] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/40. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[130]

Taking note in particular of the relevant information contained in chapter V.B of that report,

Recalling its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, 33/28 C of 7 December 1978, 34/65 D of 12 December 1979, 35/169 D of 15 December 1980, 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, 37/86 B of 10 December 1982, 38/58 B of 13 December 1983, 39/49 B of 11 December 1984, 40/96 B of 12 December 1985, 41/43 B of 2 December 1986, 42/66 B of 2 December 1987, 43/175 B of 15 December 1988, 44/41 B of 6 December 1989, 45/67 B of 6 December 1990, 46/74 B of 11 December 1991, 47/64 B of 11 December 1992, 48/158 B of 20 December 1993, 49/62 B of 14 December 1994, 50/84 B of 15 December 1995, 51/24 of 4 December 1996 and 52/50 of 9 December 1997,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 52/50;

2. *Considers* that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a useful and constructive contribution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to carry out its programme of work as detailed in the relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance, including, in particular, the organization of meetings in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community, the further development and expansion of the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, the preparation and widest possible dissemination of publications and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine, the provision of assistance in completing the project on the modernization of the records of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, and the provision of the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine;

5. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee and the Division in the performance of their tasks;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by Member States to observe annually on 29 November the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, requests them to continue to give the widest possible publicity to the observance, and requests the Committee and the Division to continue to organize, as part of the observance of the Day of Solidarity, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/41. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[131]

Taking note in particular of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 52/51 of 9 December 1997,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,

Aware of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[132] and of the subsequent implementation agreements, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[133] and their positive implications,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 52/51;

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[130] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/53/35).

[131] Ibid.

[132] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[133] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the complexities of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in general, including the achievements of the peace process, and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for the biennium 1998–1999 and, in particular:

(*a*) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations;

(*b*) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning the recent developments in that regard and, in particular, the prospects for peace;

(*c*) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine and to continue the production of such material, including the updating of the exhibit in the Secretariat;

(*d*) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority and the occupied territories;

(*e*) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists;

(*f*) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular to strengthen the training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists initiated in 1995.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/42. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions adopted at the tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973,

Aware that 1997 marked fifty years since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and thirty years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[134] submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 52/52 of 9 December 1997,

Convinced that achieving a final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Aware that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Affirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Affirming also the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the territory occupied since 1967 and of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the signing by the two parties of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[135] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[136]

Recalling also the withdrawal of the Israeli army, which took place in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in 1995 in accordance with the agreements reached by the parties, and the initiation of the Palestinian Authority in those areas, as well as the beginning of the redeployment of the Israeli army in the rest of the West Bank in 1996,

Noting with satisfaction the successful holding of the first Palestinian general elections,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and its positive contribution,

Welcoming the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, as well as all follow-up meetings and the international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

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[134] A/53/652–S/1998/1050; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1050.

[135] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[136] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

Concerned about the serious difficulties facing the Middle East peace process, and expressing the hope that the Wye River Memorandum, signed in Washington, D.C., on 23 October 1998, will be fully implemented towards full compliance with the existing agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects;

2. *Expresses its full support* for the ongoing peace process which began in Madrid and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993,[135] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995,[136] and expresses the hope that the process will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

3. *Stresses* the necessity for commitment to the principle of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which form the basis of the Middle East peace process, and the need for the immediate and scrupulous implementation of the agreements reached between the parties, including the redeployment of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and the commencement of the negotiations on the final settlement;

4. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, the co-sponsors of the peace process and other interested parties, as well as the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts and initiatives to bring the peace process back on track and to ensure its continuity and success;

5. *Stresses* the need for:

(*a*) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination;

(*b*) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967;

6. *Also stresses* the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

7. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance for the United Nations to play a more active and expanded role in the current peace process and in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter.

76th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/43. Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

The General Assembly,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/10 of 3 April 1998[137] on the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[138]

Recalling also that, in adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948,[139] it recognized the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Recalling further the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[140] in particular chapter VII thereof, entitled "1998 – Human Rights Year", in which proposals to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary are made, and welcoming the efforts of the High Commissioner to facilitate cooperation between various commemorative initiatives,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as other relevant international instruments of human rights,

Recalling its resolution 96 (I) of 11 December 1946, in which it declared genocide to be a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations,

Recalling also that, in adopting the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on 9 December 1948, it recognized the crime of genocide as an odious scourge which had inflicted great losses on humanity and was convinced that international cooperation was required to facilitate the speedy prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

Noting that, fifty years after inclusion of a proposal to that effect, concrete steps have been taken to create international penal tribunals with jurisdiction over persons charged with genocide,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, many thousands of innocent human beings continue to be victims of genocide,

Taking into consideration the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity of 26 November 1968,[141]

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[137] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[138] Resolution 260 A (III).

[139] Resolution 217 A (III).

[140] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/52/36).

[141] Resolution 2391 (XXIII), annex.

Considering that the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide provides a new opportunity for the international community to draw the attention of all States to the significance of the Convention and to invite them to redouble their efforts for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

1. *Reaffirms* the significance of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide[138] as an effective international instrument for the punishment of the crime of genocide;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention;

3. *Invites* States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so;

4. *Calls upon* all States to increase and intensify their activities aimed at the full implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

5. *Invites* Governments and the international community to continue to review and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Convention since its adoption, and to identify obstacles and the way in which they can be overcome, both through measures on the national level and through enhanced international cooperation;

6. *Invites* Governments, the Secretariat, relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention widely together with other international instruments in the field of human rights, with a view to ensuring its universality and full and comprehensive implementation.

77th plenary meeting
2 December 1998

53/68. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[142]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, most recently resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism is one of the priorities of the Organization for the decade that began in 1990,

Deeply conscious of the need to take, speedily, measures to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism by the year 2000, as called for in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the elimination of colonialism, as well as of the need for the total eradication of racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, as well as their continued readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Noting with concern the negative impact that the non-participation of certain administering Powers has had on the work of the Special Committee, depriving it of an important source of information on the Territories under their administration,

Aware of the pressing need of newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations and its system of organizations in the economic, social and other fields,

Aware also of the pressing need of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular the small island Territories, for economic, social and other assistance from the United Nations and the organizations within its system,

Taking special note of the fact that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar to review the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their political evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000, at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,[143]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions on decolonization, including its resolution 43/47, in which it declared the decade that began in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Affirms once again* that the continuation of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[144];

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[142] A/53/23 (Parts I–IX). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23.*

[143] See A/AC.109/2121.

[144] Resolution 217 A (III).

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1998, including the programme of work envisaged for 1999;[145]

6. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that foreign economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration are directed to assist the peoples of those Territories in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

8. *Takes note* of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or reduce some of the military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and urges them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States;

10. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories, and requests that the administering Powers, in consultation with the Governments of the Territories under their administration, take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

13. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1999 session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/69. Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[146]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular its resolution 52/79 of 10 December 1997,

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[145] A/53/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[146] A/53/23 (Part II), chap. III. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 (*e*) of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat;

2. *Considers it important* to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(*c*) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(*d*) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(*e*) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/85. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe[147] signed on 26 May 1993, as well as its resolutions on cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling also the declaration at the 1992 Helsinki Summit by the heads of State or Government of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of their understanding that the Conference is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as such provides an important link between European and global security,[148]

Acknowledging the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning and preventive diplomacy, including through the activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as arms control and disarmament,

Recalling the special ties between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, which have been further enhanced this year,

Underlining the continued importance of enhanced cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[149]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the further improvement of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its agencies and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including at the level of activities in the field;

3. *Welcomes*, in this context, the participation of high-level United Nations representatives in the meetings of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the participation of that organization in the third meeting of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and of regional organizations;

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[147] See A/48/185, annex II.

[148] See A/47/361–S/24370, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1992*, document S/24370.

[149] A/53/672.

4. *Notes with appreciation* the conclusion by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of a memorandum of understanding on the enhancement of the cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the secretariat of that organization, the agreement on areas for enhanced cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the agreement on cooperation between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

5. *Welcomes* the invitation addressed to the United Nations and its agencies to contribute to the discussion on a platform for cooperative security as part of the Document-Charter on European Security being developed by the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

6. *Encourages* further efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to foster security and stability in its region through early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as referred to in the Summit Declaration adopted by the heads of State or Government of that organization in Lisbon in 1996, as well as through continued promotion of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Commends* the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for its contribution to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998, including the contribution of the Chairman-in-Office of that organization to the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations prepared pursuant to the resolution;

8. *Welcomes* the early establishment by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the Kosovo Verification Mission to verify the implementation of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998) of 23 September 1998, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1203 (1998) of 24 October 1998;

9. *Welcomes* the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue to fulfil the role assigned to it in the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina,[150] in cooperation with the United Nations, to which new elements have been added during 1998 in the fields of reform of the police, the judiciary and human rights;

10. *Fully supports* the continued provision by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of advice and assistance within its field of experience to Albania, also by furnishing the overall framework for the Group of Friends of Albania, which brings together countries and international institutions that actively wish to support Albania in its development efforts, and by co-chairing the Group together with the European Union at the international level;

11. *Commends* the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the provision of civilian police monitors who have assumed the responsibilities of the United Nations Police Support Group in the Danubian region of Croatia;

12. *Fully supports* the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and welcomes the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this regard;

13. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations in the peace process in Georgia, including through the Human Rights Office in Sukhumi;

14. *Fully supports* the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe aimed at achieving a settlement of the problems in the eastern zone of the Republic of Moldova, and welcomes the commitment of that organization to facilitating the implementation of the relevant decisions of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue exploring with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
7 December 1998

53/86. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/233 of 26 June 1998 entitled "Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers",

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Steps taken within the United Nations system to resolve the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers",[151]

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[150] A/50/790–S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

[151] A/53/574 and Corr.1.

Recognizing that the effective operation of Governments, companies and other organizations is threatened by the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers, or "millennium bug",

Underlining the need for effective action to address the problem to be taken well in advance of the inflexible date of 31 December 1999, beyond which important systems might cease to function,

Recognizing the potentially serious impact that the year 2000 problem could have in all countries whose economies are increasingly interdependent,

Emphasizing that the year 2000 problem could affect both computer systems and much electronic control equipment containing embedded chips and internal clocks, with wide-ranging effects on such important areas as power supplies, telecommunications, financial systems, transport, public health, building and factory systems, food supplies, emergency services, the organization of social welfare and utilities,

Emphasizing also that coordinated efforts by Governments and private, public and international organizations are required to address the year 2000 problem,

Appreciating the establishment of a trust fund by the World Bank to assist in the efforts to resolve the year 2000 problem and the voluntary contributions made to it by the member States,

Appreciating also the efforts of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council in raising the level of awareness of the year 2000 problem,

1. *Requests* all Member States urgently to increase their efforts to solve the year 2000 problem, including by working to ensure that the private sector is fully engaged in addressing the problem, tackling it in those systems within their own control and appointing their respective national coordinators for this purpose;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States to forge global cooperation to ensure a timely and effective response to the year 2000 challenge and to work together to address the threats the problem poses globally;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, public and private sector organizations and civil society to share locally, regionally and globally information about their experiences in addressing the year 2000 problem;

4. *Urges* all Member States to emphasize the importance of contingency planning and to develop such plans to address the potential for possible large-scale failures in the public and private sectors;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that all parts of the United Nations system take measures to ensure that their computers and equipment with embedded microprocessors are year 2000 compliant well before the target date by drawing up a plan of action for the United Nations system;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem of computers prepared by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998, as contained in the annex to Council resolution 1998/45 of 31 July 1998, and urges Member States to draw upon them in addressing the diverse aspects of the year 2000 problem;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations system closely monitors actual and potential sources of funding to support the efforts of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address the year 2000 problem, and to facilitate the dissemination of relevant information on those funding possibilities to the Member States;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the steps taken within the United Nations system and with Member States to resolve the year 2000 problem;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers" and to complete its action under that agenda item before the deadline of 31 December 1999.

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

53/87. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 52/167 of 16 December 1997 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and 52/126 of 12 December 1997 on the protection of United Nations personnel, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/37 of 17 April 1998,[152]

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 1998,[153]

Concerned by the increasingly difficult context in which humanitarian assistance takes place in some areas, in particular the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[154] as an opportunity to raise awareness for humanitarian issues, in particular the need to promote, respect and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

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[152] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[153] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII.

[154] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

Deeply concerned by the growing number of complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, in the last few years, which have dramatically increased the loss of human lives, suffering of victims, flows of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as material destruction, which disrupt the development efforts of countries affected, in particular those of developing countries,

Taking note of the statements by the President of the Security Council of 19 June 1997[155] and 29 September 1998,[156] the report of the Secretary-General on protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations,[157] and the views expressed during the open debate in the Security Council on 29 September 1998 on protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations,[158]

Welcoming the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[159] adopted on 17 July 1998 by the Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held at Rome from 15 June to 17 July 1998, and noting the role that the Court could play in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, often at great personal risk,

Strongly deploring the rising toll of casualties among humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, and strongly condemning the acts of physical violence and harassment to which those participating in humanitarian operations are too frequently exposed,

Aware that humanitarian operations are generally implemented through close cooperation among Governments and the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations, and Governments and non-governmental organizations,

Guided by the relevant provisions on protection contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[160] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[161] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[162]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations: safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel";[163]

2. *Urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international humanitarian law, including those related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Also urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel, to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations, and to ensure the speedy release of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation who have been arrested or detained in violation of their immunity, in accordance with the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

4. *Encourages* all States to become parties to and to respect fully the provisions of the relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[162]

5. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information concerning the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel, to allow independent medical teams to investigate the health of those detained and to afford them the necessary medical assistance;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, to consider ways and means to strengthen the protection of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, notably by seeking the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[160] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[161] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

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[155] S/PRST/1997/34; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1997.*

[156] S/PRST/1998/30; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1998.*

[157] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/883.

[158] See S/PV.3932. For the final text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year*, 3932nd meeting.

[159] A/CONF.183/9.

[160] Resolution 22 A (I).

[161] Resolution 179 (II).

[162] Resolution 49/59, annex.

[163] A/53/501.

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures, falling within his responsibilities, to ensure that security matters are an integrated part of the planning for an operation and that such precautions extend to all United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed and suitably trained so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions;

9. *Calls upon* all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[159]

10. *Strongly condemns* any act or failure to act which obstructs or prevents humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions, or which entails their being subjected to threats, the use of force or physical attack frequently resulting in injury or death;

11. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, in countries where humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

12. *Reaffirms* the necessity for humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel to be properly informed, *inter alia*, by their sponsoring organizations of the scope of their activities and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant domestic and international law, and suitably trained so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions;

13. *Also reaffirms* the necessity for all humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the countries in which they are operating;

14. *Urges* all States to ensure that any threat or act of violence committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory is fully investigated and to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with international law and national legislation, to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are prosecuted;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Trust Fund for Security of personnel of the United Nations system in the field and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund;

16. *Notes* the discussions on the respect for and security of humanitarian personnel at the first periodical meeting on international humanitarian law, held at Geneva in January 1998, and of the report of the President of that meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the safety and security situation of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and measures to be taken to improve it, taking into account the views of Governments, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, other relevant humanitarian actors and the United Nations Security Coordinator.

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

53/88. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and 52/168 of 16 December 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56 of 28 July 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,[164]

Welcoming the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the first humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council held during its substantive session of 1998 and agreed conclusions 1998/1 adopted at that session;[165]

2. *Calls upon* relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure timely implementation of and follow-up to agreed conclusions 1998/1;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to agreed conclusions 1998/1;

4. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider ways to enhance further the humanitarian segment of future sessions of the Economic and Social Council, as outlined in agreed conclusions 1998/1.

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[164] A/53/139–E/1998/67.

[165] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3).

53/89. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/170 of 16 December 1997,

Recalling also previous resolutions on the question,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993 between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[166] as well as the signing of the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995,[167]

Gravely concerned about the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting, in the light of recent developments in the peace process, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, entitled "Facing the challenges of the year 2000: promoting Palestinian national development",[168] held at Cairo on 27 and 28 April 1998,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration,

Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General in June 1994 of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat, as well as the establishment of the consultative group,

Welcoming also the establishment by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming further the fifth meeting of the consultative group in Paris on 14 and 15 December 1997, in particular the pledges of the international donor community and the presentation of the first Palestinian Development Plan for the years 1998–2000,

Welcoming the results of the Ministerial Conference to Support Middle East Peace and Development, held in Washington, D.C., on 30 November 1998, and expressing appreciation for the pledges of the international donor community,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[169]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[169]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work done by the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority, with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building;

7. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules;

8. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

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[166] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[167] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

[168] A/53/152–E/1998/71, annex.

[169] A/53/153–E/1998/75.

9. *Suggests* the convening in 1999 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on the Palestinian economy;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

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53/90. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994 on the New Agenda, as well as its resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda,

Mindful of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-seventh[170] and the first part of its thirty-eighth[171] sessions relating to its consideration of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, launched by the Secretary-General on 15 March 1996,

Recognizing that, despite some improvements in economic performance in several countries in Africa, the continent continues to face critical social and economic problems,

Noting with concern that, while challenges and opportunities are created by the process of globalization, Africa continues to be marginalized in the world economy, and is experiencing a decline in net resource flows and in its share of world trade,

Having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review,[172]

Noting with appreciation the adoption, by the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held at Tokyo from 19 to 21 October 1998, of the Tokyo Agenda for Action,[173] which, among other things, emphasizes the principles of accelerated economic growth for poverty reduction and further integration of the continent into the global economy as well as highlights the concepts of ownership and global partnership,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review;[172]

2. *Expresses concern* at the overall declining trend of resource flows to Africa, in particular in the level of official development assistance, which has been an impediment, among other things, to the timely implementation of the New Agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to focus on priority areas identified by African countries themselves, as stipulated in the Cairo Agenda for Action[174] and the New Agenda, and to organize close consultations at both the policy and the operational levels among the various development partners, in order to achieve the best results;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and other follow-up mechanisms for the implementation of the New Agenda at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to propose a set of performance indicators to measure the progress made in the implementation of the New Agenda;

5. *Urges* all States, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds and programmes of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take, as a matter of urgency, concrete and effective measures in order to implement fully, in a coordinated manner, the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;[175]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize current international and bilateral initiatives on Africa, to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and, in this context, to ensure that the

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[170] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/52/16), chap. IV.B.

[171] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, chap. III.C.

[172] A/53/390 and Add.1.

[173] A/53/559–S/1998/1015, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1015.

[174] See A/50/647, annex II, resolution AHG/Res.236 (XXXI), annex.

[175] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

United Nations and its funds and programmes are working in a coordinated manner within the framework of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, pending the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda in the year 2002, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of resolution 51/32.

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53/91. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[176]

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on regional arrangements or agencies, which set forth the basic principles governing their activities and establishing the legal framework for cooperation with the United Nations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as resolution 49/57 of 9 December 1994, the annex to which contains the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,

Recalling also the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity[177] as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity,[178]

Recalling further its resolutions on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in particular resolutions 43/12 of 25 October 1988, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/17 of 1 November 1989, 45/13 of 7 November 1990, 46/20 of 26 November 1991, 47/148 of 18 December 1992, 48/25 of 29 November 1993, 49/64 of 15 December 1994, 50/158 of 21 December 1995, 51/151 of 13 December 1996 and 52/20 of 24 November 1997,

Recalling that, in its resolutions 46/20, 47/148 and 48/25, it, *inter alia*, urged the Secretary-General and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support for the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Recalling also its resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[179]

Taking note of the resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fourth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 8 to 10 June 1998,[180]

Noting the holding of the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa on 24 September 1998 and the recognition of the symbiotic relationship between peace and development,

Mindful of the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

Noting that the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity is developing its capacity in preventive diplomacy,

Noting also the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, and the assistance of the United Nations, to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in Africa and the harmonious continuation of the process of democratization,

Deeply concerned that, despite the policies of reform being implemented by most African countries, their economic situation remains critical and African recovery and development continue to be severely hindered by the persistence of lower-level commodity prices, the heavy debt burden and the paucity of investment financing,

Aware of the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity and its member States in the area of economic integration and of the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,[181]

Acknowledging the assistance already rendered by the international community, in particular to refugees, displaced persons and African countries of asylum,

Deeply concerned about the gravity of the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa and the urgent need for increased international assistance to help refugees and African countries of asylum,

Recognizing the importance of developing and maintaining a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships based on good governance, social justice and international cooperation in order to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and wars in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity[176] and of his efforts to strengthen that cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions;

2. *Welcomes* the recent decision of the Secretary-General to establish a liaison office with the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa;

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[176] A/53/419.

[177] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 548, No. 614 (Part II).

[178] Ibid., vol. 1580, No. 1044 (Part II).

[179] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[180] A/53/179, annex II.

[181] A/46/651.

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continued and increasing participation of the Organization of African Unity in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations organs, in particular the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to continue to involve the Organization of African Unity closely in all their activities concerning Africa;

5. *Welcomes* the initiative of the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa, which took place on 24 September 1998, expresses its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa of 13 April 1998,[182] and encourages the early implementation of the recommendations contained in the report by the United Nations and its organs and specialized agencies, each in its respective area of competence;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations to cooperate and coordinate its efforts with those of the Organization of African Unity, *inter alia*, in the following areas:

(*a*) Peaceful settlement of disputes and maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

(*b*) Prevention of conflict through the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relations in Africa and enhancement of the existing pattern of exchange of information and consultation;

7. *Invites* the United Nations to continue to assist the Organization of African Unity in strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa, in particular in the following areas:

(*a*) Establishment of an early-warning system;

(*b*) Technical assistance and training of personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(*c*) Exchange and coordination of information between their respective early-warning systems;

(*d*) Logistical support;

(*e*) Mobilization of financial support;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance provided by the United Nations and its agencies to African countries in the context of the democratization process, and urges the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to provide adequate funding and training for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to support the Organization of African Unity in its efforts to manage the expansion of the democratic experience in Africa, in particular in the areas of education for democracy, election observation, human rights and freedom, including technical support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

10. *Calls upon* all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide appropriate assistance to refugees and displaced persons, as well as to the African countries of asylum, taking into account recent disquieting developments in this respect;

11. *Stresses* that the economic, technical and development assistance provided to Africa by the United Nations system must continue, and emphasizes the urgent need for those organizations to accord priority to Africa in this field;

12. *Urges* the Secretary-General, Member States, regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to extend their support to the operations of the African Economic Community, its popularization and the strengthening of its institutional support;

13. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa to include in their programmes at the national and regional levels activities that will enhance regional cooperation in their respective areas and to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations agencies to intensify the coordination of their regional programmes in Africa in order to create linkages among them and to ensure the harmonization of their programmes with those of the African regional and subregional economic organizations;

15. *Emphasizes* the urgency of the need to adopt appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[179], in particular regarding (*a*) economic reforms, including the effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources, (*b*) promotion of the private sector and foreign direct investment, (*c*) expansion of the democratic experience and the strengthening of civil society, (*d*) environment and development, (*e*) resource flows, (*f*) solution of Africa's debt problem, (*g*) trade facilitation and market access, (*h*) diversification of African economies, (*i*) improvement of physical and institutional infrastructure and social and human resource development and (*j*) women in development;

16. *Urges* all States and international subregional organizations actively to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General to associate closely the Organization of African Unity with the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and beyond,

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[182] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

including the conduct of the final review of the implementation in the year 2002;

18. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to develop new and effective strategies for the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting of the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations held from 6 to 8 May 1998;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organs of the United Nations system to ensure the effective, fair and equitable representation of Africans at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional field operations;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the organizations of the United Nations system.

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53/92. The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[183] which was submitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken by the Security Council for an urgent and concerted effort to follow up the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General in the areas of conflict prevention and the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations as a means of promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Taking note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council[184] to undertake substantive discussions on the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General at its substantive session of 1999, and to coordinate and harmonize, as appropriate, the work of the organs of the United Nations system in the implementation of the initiatives on African development,

Recalling the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[185] as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity,[186] as well as subsequent resolutions,

Recognizing that many African countries have made significant progress towards the creation of an enabling environment for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and outcomes of United Nations Conferences,

Noting with interest the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,[187] which entered into force in May 1994, by which African countries have committed themselves to the promotion of regional economic cooperation and integration to accelerate the process of economic growth and development,

Stressing the close linkage between peace, security and sustainable development,

Noting with deep concern the conflicts in Africa and the increasing incidence of atrocities involving civilian populations, in particular those that target women, children and relief workers, and the use of children as combatants,

Also noting the need to adhere to international humanitarian law and human rights instruments and the fact that all parties involved in the conflict are accountable for their actions,

Expressing concern about the serious impact of such socio-economic problems and challenges as increasing poverty, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome pandemic, and barriers that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls,

Noting with appreciation all international, regional and bilateral initiatives for the development of Africa, including the Tokyo Agenda for Action,[188] adopted by the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held at Tokyo from 19 to 21 October 1998, which calls upon the international community to reaffirm its commitment to support Africa's development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa[183] for its holistic approach to the problems of peace and development in Africa and the concrete recommendations contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his strong and global advocacy for African development and his efforts to mobilize the international community further in support of the continent, and, in particular, to bring the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to support African development within a coordinated framework;

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[183] Ibid.

[184] See Economic and Social Council decision 1998/298.

[185] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 548, No. 614 (Part II).

[186] Ibid., vol. 1580, No. 1044 (Part II).

[187] A/46/651.

[188] A/53/559–S/1998/1015, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1015.

3. *Notes* that the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General on building durable peace and promoting sustainable development in Africa will require increased and sustained political will by African States and the international community;

4. *Calls upon* African countries to continue their efforts to create an enabling domestic environment for sustainable development;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to provide African countries with a substantial increase in the flow of financial resources required to implement the recommendations of the Secretary-General effectively, and in that context also calls upon all parties concerned to cooperate in improving the quality and effectiveness of development assistance from all sources;

6. *Stresses* the importance of improved coordination among relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system in assisting with post-conflict peace-building, reconciliation, reconstruction and development in Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to seek further measures in this regard;

7. *Urges* the United Nations and other relevant international institutions, upon request from Governments, to provide adequate assistance for the strengthening of the institutions for the promotion of transparency and accountability in public administration and good governance and, in this regard, urges all Governments to promote and respect all human rights and the rule of law and to strengthen democratic institutions;

8. *Urges* all States, as well as other relevant actors, to rely upon peaceful means instead of military solutions to their problems and, to that end, to promote preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures, as appropriate, and strengthen Africa's capacity to participate in all aspects of peacekeeping operations, in particular through increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and between the United Nations and subregional organizations;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to supplement national efforts by providing African countries with sufficient concessional resources for capacity-building and the attainment of a substantial and sustained pace of economic growth and development;

10. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular, foreign direct investment, market access, good governance, increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling unsustainable debt burdens, including through debt conversion measures, flexibility in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in all African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General;

11. *Encourages* African countries to continue to promote regional economic cooperation and integration in the framework of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community[187] and other complementary subregional organizations and arrangements, and calls upon the international community to support these efforts;

12. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children, including those with special protection needs, as well as internally displaced persons;

13. *Supports* the recommendation to harmonize current international and bilateral initiatives on Africa contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and invites African countries and their partners during the coordination segment of the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council to identify and rank priorities in partnership, to define respective responsibilities and to agree on realistic and measurable targets in priority areas;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in preparation for the discussion at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly to monitor the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa; in this regard, the Working Group shall determine its mandate and modalities, taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council on this matter.

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53/93. United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/175 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala from 1 April to 31 December 1998,

Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the eighth report of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala on human rights,[189]

Taking into account also the second[190] and third[191] reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Guatemala peace agreements,

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[189] A/52/946.

[190] A/52/757.

[191] A/53/421 and Corr.1.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Mission[192] and the recommendations therein, which are aimed at improving its capacity to respond adequately to the demands of the verification process until 31 December 1999,

Encouraged by the progress and continued efforts of the parties and sectors of Guatemalan society in support of the peace agreements,

Stressing the role played by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala in support of the Guatemala peace process, and acknowledging the support given to it by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca,

Acknowledging the support of the international community for the programmes and projects deriving from the peace agreements,

Recalling the request of the parties that the duration of the mandate of the Mission should be the same as that of the Implementation, Compliance and Verification Timetable for the Peace Agreements,[193] namely four years, from 1997 to 2000,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the second[190] and the third[191] reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Guatemala peace agreements;

2. *Takes note* of the eighth report on human rights of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala;[189]

3. *Welcomes* the progress made to date in implementing the peace agreements, in particular the recently adopted constitutional reforms, and stresses the need to ensure their broad acceptance in the upcoming referendum, through enhanced mechanisms of voter registration, to allow the widest participation possible;

4. *Underscores* the importance of further complying with the commitments set out in the peace agreements, particularly on issues identified as priorities, namely, the need to increase fiscal resources for the consolidation of the peace process, and to address the areas of land and justice;

5. *Calls upon* the parties to implement fully the commitments they entered into in the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights[194] and those in the other peace agreements, in particular those contained in the third phase (1998–2000) of the Implementation, Compliance and Verification Timetable for the Peace Agreements;[193]

6. *Urges* the parties and all sectors of Guatemalan society to remain committed to the goals of the peace agreements, particularly during the electoral period, and to strengthen further the efforts towards consensus-building, reconciliation and development, with particular attention to the most vulnerable sectors of society;

7. *Invites* the international community to continue its support for peace-related activities in Guatemala, *inter alia*, through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Guatemala peace process established by the Secretary-General;

8. *Decides* to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission from 1 January to 31 December 1999;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an updated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with his recommendations with regard to the Mission after 31 December 1999;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

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53/94. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The General Assembly,

Considering the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, and its own resolutions, particularly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988, in which it requests the Secretary-General to continue his good offices and to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve the objectives of peace, reconciliation, democracy, development and justice established in the agreement on “Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America” of 7 August 1987,[195]

Reaffirming its resolutions in which it recognizes and stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at promoting economic and social development in the region with a view to furthering and supplementing the efforts of the Central American peoples and Governments to achieve peace and democratization, particularly resolution 50/58 B of 12 December 1995, concerning international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[196] as well as its resolution 53/1 C of 2 November 1998, concerning emergency assistance to Central America, owing to the destruction caused by hurricane Mitch,

Emphasizing the importance of the development of the Central American Integration System, which has as its main objective the promotion of the integration process; the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America as the integrated programme for national and regional development, which contains the commitments and priorities of the countries of the area for the promotion of sustainable development; the establishment of the subsystem and of the regional social policy; the model of democratic Central American security; and the implementation of other agreements adopted at the presidential summit meetings, which taken together constitute the global frame of reference for consolidating peace, freedom, democracy and development and the basis for the promotion of mutually advantageous relations between Central America and the international community,

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[192] A/53/288.

[193] A/51/796–S/1997/114, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1997*, document S/1997/114.

[194] A/48/928–S/1994/448, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1994*, document S/1994/448.

[195] A/42/521–S/19085, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987*, document S/19085.

[196] See A/49/580–S/1994/1217, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

Welcoming the visit of the Secretary-General to Guatemala in support of the process of consolidating peace, democracy and development in the Central American region, in particular, in that country,

Recognizing the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Guatemala Peace Agreements, implementation of which is being verified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, including those relating to the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants into civilian life, the treatment of returnees, the establishment of special commissions, the reduction of the army, the promotion and protection of human rights and progress in respect of constitutional reforms,

Noting with gratification the efforts of the people and the Government of El Salvador to implement the peace accords fully,

Recognizing with satisfaction the role played by the peacekeeping operations and observer and monitoring missions of the United Nations, which carried out successfully their mandate in Central America pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively,

Welcoming the changes and progress made by the Central American people, whose efforts have brought about, *inter alia*, constitutional reforms, the strengthening of civil society, the creation of new political forms, the holding of free and pluralistic elections, the creation of mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, freedom of expression, the strengthening of democratic institutions and of the rule of law, judicial reform processes and the adoption of a fairer development model providing greater opportunities for the Central American peoples,

Emphasizing the importance of the end of a critical period in Central American history and the start of a new phase free from armed conflict, with freely elected Governments in each country and with profound political, economic, social and other changes which have created a climate conducive to the promotion of economic growth and further progress towards the consolidation and further development of democratic, just and equitable societies,

Reaffirming that firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America are a dynamic and ongoing process that faces serious structural challenges, whose continuation and consolidation are closely related to progress in human development, especially the alleviation of extreme poverty, the promotion of economic and social justice, judicial reform, the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for minorities and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups among the people of the region, issues which have been a primary source of tension and conflict and which deserve to be discussed with the same urgency and dedication as was the case in the settlement of the armed conflicts,

Emphasizing the decision of the Presidents of the Central American countries to continue to do their utmost to expedite, gradually and progressively, the Central American Union referred to in the Declaration of Nicaragua of 2 September 1997, in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of the region,

Recognizing the destructive effects of hurricane Mitch through the Central American region, which have resulted in a bleak panorama owing to the great loss of human lives and material damage,

Deeply concerned lest the devastating effects of this natural disaster bring about a significant setback as regards the efforts of the Central American peoples and the international community to overcome the aftermath of the armed conflicts and as regards the progress achieved with respect to political stability, democratization and sustainable development, which constitutes an emergency situation that will call for extraordinary measures, both on the part of the Governments of the region and on the part of the international community, in order to meet the priority needs of the affected populations and to promote as soon as possible rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in the region,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[197]

2. *Commends* the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of the Central American countries to re-establish peace and democracy throughout the region and promote sustainable development by implementing the commitments adopted at the summit meetings, and supports the decision of the presidents that Central America should become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

3. *Recognizes* the need to continue to follow closely the situation in Central America in order to support national and regional efforts to overcome the underlying causes that have led to armed conflicts, avoid setbacks and consolidate peace and democratization in the area, and promote the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;[196]

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the global frame of reference and the establishment of national and regional development priorities as the basis for promoting the effective, consistent and sustainable progress of the Central American peoples, and for providing international cooperation in accordance with the new circumstances in and outside the region;

5. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in implementing the Guatemala Peace Agreements, and urges all sectors of

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[197] A/53/315.

society to combine efforts and work with courage and determination to consolidate peace;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the people and the Government of El Salvador to fulfil the commitments set forth in the peace accords, thus contributing substantially to the strengthening of the democratization process in the country;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements signed under United Nations auspices, compliance with which is an essential condition for a firm and lasting peace in that country, and to provide their resolute support for the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala in the fulfilment of its mandate;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the Central American Integration System as the body set up to coordinate and harmonize efforts to achieve integration, a process aimed at establishing, gradually and progressively, the Central American Union, and calls upon the international community, the United Nations system and other international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to provide generous and effective cooperation with a view to improving the competence and efficiency of the Central American Integration System in the fulfilment of its mandate;

9. *Encourages* the Central American Governments to continue to carry out their historic responsibilities by fully implementing the commitments they have assumed under national, regional or international agreements, especially the commitments to implement the social programme to overcome poverty and unemployment, establish a more just and equitable society, improve public safety, consolidate a modern and transparent public administration and eliminate corruption, impunity, acts of terrorism and drug and arms trafficking, all of which are necessary and urgent measures for establishing a firm and lasting peace in the region;

10. *Reiterates its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General, his special representatives, the groups of friends for the peace processes in El Salvador (Colombia, Mexico, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela) and Guatemala (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), to the Support Group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), to the European Union for the political dialogue and cooperation, and to other countries that have contributed significantly and the international community in general for its support and solidarity in the building of peace, democracy and development in Central America;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation, in particular cooperation with the bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and the donor community in the new stage of consolidating peace and democracy in Central America, and urges them to continue to support Central American efforts to achieve those goals, bearing in mind the global framework of the new regional development strategy, which is in keeping with the collective aspirations and needs of the Central American peoples;

12. *Recognizes* the need for emergency aid for the Central American countries, as a result of the disaster caused by hurricane Mitch;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the expressions of international solidarity and support and the emergency aid provided to the victims of hurricane Mitch;

14. *Appeals* to all Member States, to the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and to international financial institutions, as well as to non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other major actors in international civil society, generously to provide special cooperation and assistance and emergency aid for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the countries affected by the hurricane;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the implementation of a new, comprehensive sustainable development programme and the initiative to establish the Central American Union, emphasizing, *inter alia*, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

81st plenary meeting
7 December 1998

53/95. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti",

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, as well as those adopted on the question by the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998, in which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti until 30 November 1999,

Taking note also of the relevant resolutions adopted on the question by the Organization of American States,

Reaffirming that the goal of the international community remains the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of social and economic development in Haiti,

Paying tribute to the people and the authorities of Haiti for their efforts to consolidate democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, *Underlining* the importance of the role of Haitian authorities in initiating and implementing the process of judicial reform, without which the assistance of the international community will not have the desired impact,

Expressing deep concern at the prolonged political stalemate, which undermines the development and consolidation of democratic institutions in Haiti,

Strongly supporting the continuing leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in the efforts of the international community to further social, economic and political progress in Haiti,

Welcoming the continued efforts by States to provide humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation to the people of Haiti,

Supporting fully the contributions of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, its Executive Director and staff and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti in the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the full observance of human rights and the full restoration of the constitutional democracy of Haiti,

Encouraging the continued cooperation between the International Civilian Mission to Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti and others participating in institution-building, including police training activities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti,[198] and the request from the President of the Republic of Haiti to the Secretary-General contained in the annex thereto,

Stressing the importance of continuing to improve the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, and noting that the Haitian authorities remain committed to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms and to improving accountability,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report[198] to extend for one year the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, with the tasks of:

(*a*) Assisting, as a priority, the efforts of the Haitian authorities in the field of institution-building, in particular providing technical assistance and guidance to the components of the judicial system as part of the process of judicial reform;

(*b*) Supporting the development of a programme for the promotion and protection of human rights in order to further the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the consolidation of long-term constitutional democracy in Haiti and to contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions;

(*c*) Verifying full observance by Haiti of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Decides* to authorize, on the basis of the above recommendation, the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti until 31 December 1999, according to the terms of reference and modalities under which the Mission is operating;

3. *Urges* the authorities and political leaders to continue their efforts to find a compromise that will bring an end to the political crisis;

4. *Calls upon* the Haitian authorities to mobilize political will for the pursuit of the reform and strengthening of the system of justice of Haiti, including the improvement of the country's prisons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly two reports on the implementation of the present resolution and, in the case of the first report, to be submitted no later than 15 May 1999, on the ways in which the international community can continue to assist in the tasks set out in paragraph 1 above;

6. *Reaffirms once again* the commitment of the international community to continue its technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts in order to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in providing humanitarian aid and contributing to the development of Haiti;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti".

82nd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/168. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms the faith of the United Nations in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[199] as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations as well as the source of inspiration and a basis of subsequent progress in the field of human rights,

Concerned that human rights and fundamental freedoms are not fully and universally respected and continue to be violated in all parts of the world, and that people still suffer misery and are deprived of the full enjoyment of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and that some peoples still lack the full enjoyment of their right of self-determination,

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[198] A/53/564.

[199] Resolution 217 A (III).

Stressing the necessity for further national efforts as well as enhanced international cooperation, with a view to fully realizing all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the need to promote greater awareness of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat them globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming also the need to ensure full observance of the human rights of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming further the need for the international community to continue to review and assess the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Declaration and to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome,

Mindful that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Declares solemnly its commitment to the fulfilment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and as a source of inspiration for the further promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms – political, economic, social, civil and cultural – including the right to development.

86th plenary meeting
10 December 1998

53/202. The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and decision 52/477 D of 6 May 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform,[200] and the note by the Secretary-General on a Millennium Assembly, the United Nations system (Special Commission) and a Millennium Forum,[201]

Convinced that the year 2000 constitutes a unique and symbolically compelling moment to articulate and affirm an animating vision for the United Nations in the new era,

Also convinced that a Millennium Assembly would provide an opportunity to strengthen the role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century,

1. *Decides* to designate the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations";

2. *Also decides* to convene, as an integral part of the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, a Millennium Summit of the United Nations for a limited number of days on dates to be decided by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, members of the specialized agencies and observers and to propose, after a process of intergovernmental consultation, a number of forward-looking and widely relevant topics that could help to focus the Millennium Summit within the context of an overall theme, for consideration by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consult with non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, before the submission of his proposals;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", and agrees that a decision on the intergovernmental preparatory process, in particular its format and terms of reference, ensuring the full and effective participation of all Member States, members of the specialized agencies and observers in preparing for the Millennium Assembly, should be taken at the earliest opportunity by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

6. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session a sub-item entitled "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations" under the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals".

92nd plenary meeting
17 December 1998

53/203. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 B of 19 December 1995, 51/195 B of 17 December 1996 and 52/211 B of 19 December 1997,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998 and 1214 (1998) of 8 December 1998 and all statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan,

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[200] A/51/950 and Add.1–7.

[201] A/52/850.

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that only a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government acceptable to the Afghan people can lead to peace and reconciliation,

Stressing the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and deeply concerned at all forms of continued external support, which is causing the prolongation and intensification of the conflict,

Expressing its grave concern at the failure of all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to put an end to the conflict, which seriously threatens stability and peace in the region, and strongly condemning the sharp escalation of this conflict and the intensification of the fighting in Afghanistan, which add to the enormous suffering of the Afghan people, resulting in the massive loss of human life, refugee flows, killing, harassment, the forcible displacement of innocent civilians and extensive destruction, and seriously threaten stability and peace in the region,

Also expressing its grave concern at persistent violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, as exemplified by reports of mass killings and atrocities committed by combatants against civilians and prisoners of war,

Further expressing its grave concern at the continuing and substantiated reports of systematic discrimination against girls and women, particularly in areas controlled by the Taliban,

Deeply concerned by the increasingly ethnic nature of the conflict, by reports of persecution on the grounds of ethnic origin and religious persuasion, in particular against the Shiites, and by the threat this poses to the unity of the Afghan State,

Strongly condemning the armed attacks against United Nations personnel in territories controlled by the Taliban, in which United Nations staff members were murdered or injured,

Also strongly condemning the capture by Taliban militia of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e Sharif and the killing of diplomatic and consular personnel of the Consulate-General and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, and stressing that these unacceptable acts constitute violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations[202] and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[203]

Deeply disturbed by the continuing use of Afghan territory for the sheltering and training of terrorists as well as for the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, and by the dangerous repercussions of these activities, which reach Afghanistan's neighbours and far beyond,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universally recognized and impartial intermediary, must continue to play the central role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made in this regard by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan,

Welcoming the contacts between the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and various non-warring Afghan parties and personalities, and supporting calls by these independent Afghans for an end to the fighting and any proposals that might advance the cause of peace, including the convening of a genuine *loya jirgah* to promote a political settlement,

Expressing its appreciation for the commitment in support of and in coordination with the United Nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Afghanistan, especially the missions to Afghanistan undertaken jointly by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Welcoming the recent exchange of prisoners between the Afghan parties,

Recalling paragraph 13 of its resolution 52/211 B requesting the Secretary-General to continue to investigate fully reports about mass killings of prisoners of war and civilians and incidents of rape in Afghanistan and to include his findings in his next report to be submitted to the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[204] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Stresses* that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties, and urges all of them to respond to the repeated United Nations calls for peace;

3. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to engage, without delay or preconditions, in a political dialogue under United Nations auspices aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict through creating a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government, which would protect the rights of all Afghans and observe the international obligations of Afghanistan;

4. *Welcomes* the recent exchange of prisoners between the Afghan parties, and urges them to take further confidence-building measures;

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[202] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, No. 7310.

[203] Ibid., vol. 596, No. 8638.

[204] A/53/695–S/1998/1109; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1109.

5. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to refrain from all acts of violence, especially against civilians;

6. *Condemns* the fact that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 1998, and calls upon all States strictly to refrain from any outside interference and immediately to end the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, including the presence and involvement of any foreign military, paramilitary or secret service personnel;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, to continue its efforts to facilitate an immediate and durable ceasefire among the Afghan parties and to institute a negotiating process leading to the formation of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government of national unity;

8. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish, taking into account security conditions, a separate civil affairs unit by adding a new monitoring function to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, with the primary objective of deterring grave violations of human rights and promoting respect for minimum humanitarian standards in the future, and to send an assessment mission to Afghanistan, as soon as security conditions permit, in order to determine the exact mandate, composition and location of the civilian monitors;

9. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the United Nations to facilitate the political process towards national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society, and reaffirms its full support for the comprehensive efforts of the Secretary-General, the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and those of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan;

10. *Welcomes* in this regard the constitution of groups of interested States, in particular the "six plus two" group, to coordinate their efforts, as well as the activities of international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the initiatives of its Secretary-General, and urges these States and organizations to continue to use their influence in a constructive manner in support of and in close coordination with the United Nations to promote peace in Afghanistan;

11. *Calls upon* the Taliban to provide security guarantees to enable an investigation to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the reports of massacres of innocent civilians and of mass executions of prisoners of war as well as on reports of killings in Mazar-e Sharif and Bamian;

12. *Urges* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to demonstrate their full commitment to the safety and security of all international and humanitarian personnel, which is a prerequisite for their activities in Afghanistan, to facilitate their work;

13. *Takes note* of the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and urges the Taliban to take the necessary steps for its full implementation;

14. *Urges* the Taliban to proceed with the immediate and thorough investigation of the death, serious injury or disappearance of international or national staff members and other persons employed by the United Nations, in particular the killing of the two Afghan staff members of the World Food Programme and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jalalabad and of the Military Adviser to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in Kabul, and to keep the United Nations regularly informed about the progress of its investigation;

15. *Strongly condemns* the killing of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, which the Taliban has accepted as having been perpetrated by its militia, urges the Taliban to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the result of its investigation to date, and calls upon the Taliban to cooperate fully with an international investigation of the murder of the Iranian diplomats and the Islamic Republic News Agency correspondent with a view to prosecuting the guilty parties;

16. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of persons, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

17. *Calls upon* all parties, in particular the Taliban, to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of men and women;

18. *Condemns* the continuing widespread violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all parties to respect strictly all its provisions that provide essential protection for the civilian population in armed conflicts;

19. *Demands* that all parties, in particular the Taliban, stop harbouring and permitting the training of terrorists and their organizations and that all Afghan parties cooperate with efforts to bring indicted terrorists to justice;

20. *Reiterates its call* to all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to halt all illegal drug activities and to support international efforts to ban illicit drug production and trafficking;

21. *Reiterates* that the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan belong to the common heritage of mankind, calls upon all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to protect the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan from acts of vandalism, damage and theft, and requests all Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the looting of cultural artifacts and to ensure their return to Afghanistan;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-third session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 A of 19 December 1995, 51/195 A of 17 December 1996 and 52/211 A of 19 December 1997,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and security and causing massive loss of life and extensive human suffering, further destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Deeply disturbed by insufficient security conditions for United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel and by various restrictions of access imposed on them,

Deeply disturbed also by the closure of the Kabul offices of international non-governmental organizations, the expulsion of foreign workers and the arrest of local personnel, which have caused the non-governmental organizations to curtail their much-needed help to the civilian population of Kabul,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as the continued laying of new landmines in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields,

Expressing its grave concern at the grave violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan and at the inadequacy of measures taken by the warring factions to reverse the situation,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of human rights, in particular of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, and welcoming the decision of the United Nations to appoint gender and human rights advisers as an integral part of the office of the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan,

Noting with deep concern the adverse effects of human rights violations on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan as well as refugee repatriation programmes,

Expressing its grave concern for the well-being of internally displaced persons and the civilian population of Afghanistan without shelter, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods, owing, *inter alia*, to the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies and to the denial by the warring factions of adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by humanitarian organizations,

Distressed by the loss of life caused by earthquakes and floods, and expressing its appreciation to all States, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that provided emergency relief,

Affirming the urgent need to continue, if conditions permit, international humanitarian assistance and action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services,

Welcoming the principle-centred approach towards humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation in Afghanistan as outlined in the Strategic Framework and in the document entitled "Next Steps for the United Nations in Afghanistan", and the common programming mechanisms introduced by the United Nations,

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to all States, the United Nations system, international organizations and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[204] and endorses the observations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* all relevant organizations of the United Nations to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, in particular to ensure a consistent approach on matters of principle, human rights and security, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely with the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the desire of the Afghan people for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

4. *Demands* that all Afghan parties respect international humanitarian law and that they, in particular the Taliban, ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and the protection of property of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian

organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan;

5. *Condemns* all blockades or other interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies to the Afghan people as a violation of international humanitarian law, and notes the recent lifting of the blockade in central Afghanistan by the Taliban;

6. *Urges* all Afghan parties to ensure safe and unimpeded access for and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine, shelter and health care and to prevent the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies;

7. *Takes note* of the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and urges the Taliban to take the necessary steps for its full implementation;

8. *Denounces* the continuing discrimination against girls and women and religious minorities and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, while noting with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, *inter alia*, the International Covenants on Human Rights[205] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[206]

9. *Strongly urges* all of the Afghan parties to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men, including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security and freedom from intimidation and harassment in particular with respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid;

10. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective and that it actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men, and that women benefit equally with men from such assistance;

11. *Expresses concern* over the continued laying of landmines and urges all Afghan parties to put a complete halt to the use of landmines, which continues to take a heavy toll on civilians and seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Urgently appeals* to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan to be launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

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[205] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[206] Resolution 34/180, annex.

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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53/70. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, *inter alia,* it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of mankind, and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling in this connection the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Taking note of the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and of the recommendations it made,[1]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the security of States,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the misuse or exploitation of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security;

2. *Invites* all Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(*a*) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(*b*) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(*c*) Advisability of developing international principles that would enhance the security of global information and telecommunications systems and help to combat information terrorism and criminality;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/71. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and relevant treaties and other relevant principles and provisions of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, *inter alia,* to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to develop friendly relations among nations, and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, including rights for persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Deeply concerned that situations which may threaten international peace and security persist in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to prevent such situations in the future,

Convinced of the necessity to enhance the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States can pose a threat to international peace and security,

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[1] See A/51/261, annex.

Noting that the vast majority of violent conflicts at present are conflicts within States,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

2. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to preventing the violent disintegration of States and to promoting international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Calls upon* all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter;

4. *Affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders;

5. *Also affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

6. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security;

7. *Requests* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/72. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/32 of 9 December 1997 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994 and 51/38 of 10 December 1996, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General[2] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Noting the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament to reappoint a Special Coordinator on transparency in armaments to seek the views of the members of the Conference on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item,[3]

Noting also the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. *Recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. *Welcomes* the resumption on 23 April 1998 by the Secretary-General of consultations with relevant international

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[2] A/53/218.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No.* 27 (A/53/27), para. 8.

bodies with a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument to encourage wider participation;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with a report[2] on the outcome of those consultations containing, *inter alia*, recommendations on ways and means to enhance the participation in the standardized reporting instrument;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

5. *Encourages* relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarity among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To resume the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of data to the reporting system, together with the reporting format and related instructions, and to publish in a timely fashion in appropriate United Nations media the due date for transmitting data on military expenditures;

(*b*) To promote international and regional symposia and training seminars to explain the purpose of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and to give relevant technical instructions;

(*c*) To circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultations with relevant international bodies, within existing resources, with a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument to encourage wider participation, with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarity among international and regional reporting systems and to exchange related information with those bodies;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

9. *Calls upon* all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the analysis and the recommendations contained in his report[2] and with further suggestions to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/73. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of advanced weapon systems and in particular weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Also cognizant of the need to regulate such transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications through multilaterally negotiated, universally applicable, non-discriminatory guidelines,

Expressing concern over the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies, which tend to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Recalling that the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[4] noted with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and the requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

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[4] See A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

1. *Affirms* that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. *Invites* Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. *Urges* Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of the Member States on that report and to make recommendations on the possible approaches to multilaterally negotiated, universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technologies with military applications, in a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-fourth session;

5. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/74. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996 and 52/34 of 9 December 1997 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[6]

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

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[5] A/53/202.

[6] Resolution S-10/2.

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/34,[7]

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[8]

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(42)/RES/21, adopted on 25 September 1998 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-second regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[6] and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report[9] or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/75. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

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[7] A/53/379.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[9] A/45/435.

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[10] the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament[11] submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session,[12] the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,[13] the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,[14]

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,[15] with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[16] as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years, as manifested in the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the issue by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1998 session[17] and the recommendation of the Conference to establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the beginning of its 1999 session,[18]

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996 and 52/36 of 9 December 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Recommends also* that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

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[10] Resolution S-10/2.

[11] The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

[13] Ibid., *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

[14] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), sect. III.F.

[15] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/48/27), para. 39.

[16] See A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[17] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/53/27), para. 8.

[18] Ibid., para. 38.

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/76. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[19]

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[20] in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,[21] and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1997 session to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,[22]

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, *inter alia*, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[19]

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

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[19] Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

[20] Resolution S-10/2.

[21] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/49/27), sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

[22] CD/1125.

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to finalize the examination of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992,[22] with a view to updating it as appropriate, thus providing for the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee during the 1999 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

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53/77. General and complete disarmament

A

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN CENTRAL ASIA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/38 S of 9 December 1997,

Also recalling paragraphs 60, 61, 62 and 64 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[23] the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[24] and paragraphs 5 and 6 of the decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" in the Final Document of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[25] concerning the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to the achievement of general and complete disarmament,

Emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized agreements on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world and on the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,[26] on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States within the region and taking into account the special characteristics of the region, can enhance the security of the States involved and strengthen global and regional security and peace,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration of the heads of State of the Central Asian States of 28 February 1997[27] on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, and the statement issued at Tashkent on 15 September 1997 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,[28]

Welcoming the Communiqué of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian Countries, the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations held at Bishkek on 9 and 10 July 1998,[29] with a view to elaborating acceptable ways and means for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,

Reaffirming the generally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

1. *Calls upon* all States to support the initiative aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

2. *Commends* the first concrete steps taken by the States of the region in preparing the legal groundwork for their initiative;

3. *Encourages* the five Central Asian States to continue their dialogue with the five nuclear-weapon States on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide assistance to the Central Asian States in

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[23] Resolution S-10/2.

[24] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[25] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 2.

[26] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

[27] A/52/112, annex.

[28] A/52/390, annex.

[29] A/53/183, annex.

the preparation of the form and elements of an agreement on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

5. *Decides* to consider the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia at its fifty-fourth session under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

B

ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR CURBING THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS AND COLLECTING THEM

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994, 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, 51/45 L of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 C of 9 December 1997,

Considering that the illicit circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to their populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali for United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by the other States of the region in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[30]

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa,

Welcoming also the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998, concerning the proliferation of small arms and light weapons,[31]

Taking note with interest of the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, in particular the recommendations contained in paragraphs 79 (*a*) and (*g*) of its report,[32]

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the common understanding of the meeting on small arms, held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998,[33] and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,[34]

1. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. *Also welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at Abuja on 31 October 1998,[35] and urges the international community to give its support to the implementation of the moratorium;

3. *Further welcomes* the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

4. *Thanks* the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions, and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

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[30] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[31] A/53/179, annex I, decision CM/Dec.432 (LXVIII).

[32] A/52/298, annex.

[33] See CD/1556.

[34] A/53/681, annex.

[35] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1194.

6. *Notes* that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, the Government of Mali oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu, Mali, on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

7. *Encourages* the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to support as far as possible the smooth functioning of the national commissions where they have been set up;

8. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the ministerial consultation on the proposal for a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons in the region, held at Bamako on 26 March 1997, and encourages the States concerned to pursue their consultations on the matter;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

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C

PROHIBITION OF THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153(XLVIII) of 1988[36] and CM/Res.1225(L) of 1989,[37] adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,[38]

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session,[39] inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,[40]

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,[41] *inter alia,* to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[42] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[23] the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. *Takes note* of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;[43]

2. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

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[36] See A/43/398, annex I.

[37] See A/44/603, annex I.

[38] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session*, 17–21 September 1990 (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

[39] Ibid., *Thirty-eighth Regular Session*, 19–23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC (1994)).

[40] A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

[41] The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[42] See A/46/390, annex I.

[43] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/53/27), chap. III.E.

5. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. *Takes note* of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[42] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. *Expresses the hope* that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption at Vienna on 5 September 1997 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, and the signing of the Joint Convention by a number of States beginning on 29 September 1997, and appeals to all States to sign and subsequently ratify, accept or approve the Convention, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

D

MONGOLIA'S INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE STATUS

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[44]

Welcoming the decision of Mongolia to declare its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Taking note with satisfaction of the separate statements made by the nuclear-weapon States in connection with Mongolia's declaration of its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[45] in which the Conference welcomed and supported Mongolia's policy to institutionalize its single State nuclear-weapon-free status,

Proceeding from the fact that nuclear-weapon-free status is one of the means of ensuring the national security of States,

Bearing in mind its resolution 49/31 of 9 December 1994 on the protection and security of small States,

Welcoming Mongolia's active and positive role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the States of the region and other States,

Convinced that the internationally recognized status of Mongolia will contribute to enhancing stability and confidence-building in the region as well as promote Mongolia's security by strengthening its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders and the preservation of its ecological balance,

1. *Welcomes* the declaration by Mongolia of its nuclear-weapon-free status;

2. *Endorses and supports* Mongolia's good-neighbourly and balanced relationship with its neighbours as an important element of strengthening regional peace, security and stability;

3. *Invites* Member States, including the five nuclear-weapon States, to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its economic security, its ecological balance and its nuclear-weapon-free status, as well as its independent foreign policy;

4. *Appeals* to the member States of the Asia and Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to provide the necessary assistance to Mongolia, within existing resources, to take the necessary measures mentioned in paragraph 3 above;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

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[44] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[45] A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

E

SMALL ARMS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach to promote, at the global and regional levels, the control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner as a contribution to international peace and security,

Reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves,

Reaffirming also the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, *inter alia*, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[46]

Reaffirming further the urgent need for practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands,

Reiterating its call upon Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, which was prepared with the assistance of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,[32] to the extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control services,

Reiterating its request to the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations as soon as possible within available financial resources and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary, as well as its encouragement to Member States and the Secretary-General to carry out recommendations for post-conflict situations, including demobilization of former combatants and disposal and destruction of weapons,

Noting that the Secretary-General is, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, preparing, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, a report on (*a*) the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on small arms[32] endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 52/38 J and (*b*) further actions recommended to be taken,

Noting also that the group of technical experts appointed by the Secretary-General to study the problems of ammunition and explosives in all their aspects has held its first meeting,

Noting further the replies to date to the request of the Secretary-General to Member States for their views on his report on small arms and on the steps that they have taken to implement its recommendations, in particular, on the recommendation concerning the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects,

Taking note with interest of the work in progress for the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, including a protocol to combat illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and of other related efforts by the Commission and the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat,

Underlining the importance of increasing coordination regarding the issue of small arms and light weapons, including illicit manufacturing and trafficking therein, both among the relevant bodies of the United Nations and within the Secretariat, and welcoming in this context the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms,

1. *Decides* to convene an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects no later than 2001;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing his recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with a view to a decision by the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the objective, scope, agenda, dates, venue of and preparatory committee for an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing his report in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present resolution:

(*a*) To seek the views of all Member States on the objective, scope, agenda, dates and venue of and preparatory work for an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects and to take into account these views as well as the views already expressed by them in their replies to the request of the Secretary-General for their views in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/38 J;

(*b*) To take into account his report on small arms,[32] as well as relevant recommendations to be made in his report prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, which will be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 52/38 J;

4. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Switzerland to host in Geneva, no later than 2001, an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, to initiate a study as soon as possible, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of

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[46] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Small arms".

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4 December 1998

F

REDUCING NUCLEAR DANGER

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which will have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

Conscious that limited steps relating to detargeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States to address this concern and that further steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that reduction of tensions brought about by a change in nuclear doctrines would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[23] and by the international community,

Recalling that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*[47] states that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

1. *Calls* for a review of nuclear doctrines and in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to undertake measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

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G

NUCLEAR TESTING

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the cessation of all nuclear testing will contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament leading to the ultimate objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and therefore to the further enhancement of international peace and security,

Reaffirming also its commitment to and the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[24] and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[48] to the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and as essential foundations for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Convinced that all States that have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay and without conditions,

Sharing the alarm expressed internationally, regionally and nationally, at recent nuclear tests,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1172 (1998), adopted unanimously on 6 June 1998,

1. *Expresses grave concern over and strongly deplores* the recent nuclear tests conducted in South Asia;

2. *Notes* that the States concerned have declared moratoriums on further testing and have said that they are willing to enter into legal commitments not to conduct any further nuclear tests, and reiterates the need for such legal commitments to be expressed in legal form by signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

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[47] A/51/218, annex.

[48] See resolution 50/245.

H

REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, with due regard to the specific characteristics of each region and on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned, can play an important role in promoting regional and global peace and security,

Welcoming the treaties of Tlatelolco,[49] Rarotonga,[50] Bangkok,[51] and Pelindaba,[52] as well as the Almaty Declaration,[27] on the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and similar initiatives in the respective regions, in accordance with established principles,

Noting the sovereign resolve of the States of Central and Eastern Europe to contribute to, and benefit from, the new European security architecture based, *inter alia*, upon the principles of good-neighbourly relations, as well as cooperation with and accession to the Euro-Atlantic structures,

Welcoming that, as a result of the historic events of the past few years leading to enhancement of the atmosphere of trust, mutual respect and partnership among European States, the nuclear weapons were withdrawn from the territories of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and that currently there are no nuclear weapons stationed in the territories of the Central and Eastern European States,

Taking note of the statement of Ministerial North Atlantic Council Meeting, of 10 December 1996, and confirmed by the heads of State or Government of the countries members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation,[53] signed in Paris on 27 May 1997, that countries members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have no intention, no plan and no reason to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members,

Welcoming efforts to enhance stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe through building a new regional security architecture based on cooperation and shared values and without creating new dividing lines,

1. *Urges* all concerned States to exert efforts to continue making it possible to have no intention, no plan and no reason to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of the non-nuclear States of the region of Central and Eastern Europe;

2. *Calls upon* all States of Central and Eastern Europe and other States concerned to continue to abide by their nuclear non-proliferation obligations under existing multilateral and bilateral agreements;

3. *Decides* to consider the implementation of the present resolution at its fifty-fifth session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

I

THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT DECISION TO ESTABLISH, UNDER ITEM 1 OF ITS AGENDA ENTITLED "CESSATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT", AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO NEGOTIATE, ON THE BASIS OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR (CD/1299) AND THE MANDATE CONTAINED THEREIN, A NON-DISCRIMINATORY, MULTILATERAL AND INTERNATIONALLY AND EFFECTIVELY VERIFIABLE TREATY BANNING THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/75 L of 16 December 1993,

Convinced that a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be a significant contribution to nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects,

Noting the report of the Conference on Disarmament, in which, *inter alia*, the Conference records that in proceeding to take a decision on this matter, that decision is without prejudice to any further decisions on the establishment of further subsidiary bodies under agenda item 1 and that intensive consultations will be pursued to seek the views of the members of the Conference on Disarmament on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with agenda item 1, taking into consideration all proposals and views in that respect,[54]

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the Conference on Disarmament[54] to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[55] and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that this ad hoc committee has already engaged in the first step in the substantive negotiations;

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[49] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[50] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[51] Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

[52] A/50/426, annex.

[53] A/52/161–S/1997/413, appendix; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/413.

[54] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/53/27), para. 10.

[55] CD/1299.

3. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish its ad hoc committee at the beginning of its 1999 session.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

J

OBSERVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS IN THE DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 E of 9 December 1997,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 52/38 E in all its aspects;

2. *Also reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should fully contribute to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

3. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

4. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;[56]

5. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

K

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[23] concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[57]

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 D of 9 December 1997,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[45]

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the Secretary-General[58] and actions taken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;[57]

2. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1999, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[59] as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

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[56] A/53/158 and Add.1 and 2.

[57] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

[58] A/53/206.

[59] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

L

MEASURES TO UPHOLD THE AUTHORITY OF THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 51/45 P of 10 December 1996,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[60] as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Welcoming the end of the cold war, the ensuing easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Welcoming also the initiatives by some States parties to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

1. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[60] and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

2. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

M

CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE THROUGH PRACTICAL DISARMAMENT MEASURES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 G of 9 December 1997,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, *inter alia*, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development in areas that have suffered from conflict,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas,

Recalling the deliberations on guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N, in the Disarmament Commission and the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms[32] and its relevance in the context of the present resolution and of the ongoing work in the Disarmament Commission,

1. *Stresses* the particular relevance of the deliberations in the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N, as a useful basis for further deliberations, and encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue its efforts aimed at the adoption of such guidelines in 1999;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures,[61] submitted pursuant to resolution 51/45 N, and once again encourages Member States, as well as regional arrangements and agencies, to lend their support to the implementation of recommendations contained therein;

3. *Invites* the group of interested States that was formed in New York in March 1998 to continue to analyse lessons learned from previous disarmament and peace-building projects, as well as to promote new practical disarmament

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[60] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

[61] A/52/289.

measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves;

4. *Encourages* Member States, including the group of interested States, to lend their support to the Secretary-General in responding to requests by Member States to collect and destroy small arms and light weapons in post-conflict situations;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

N

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/38 A of 9 December 1997,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in assuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

Recalling the conclusion of negotiations on 18 September 1997 at Oslo on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[62] and the opening for signature of the Convention at Ottawa, on 3 and 4 December 1997, and thereafter at Headquarters in New York until its entry into force,

Welcoming the addition of new States signatories to the Convention since its opening for signature, the rapid ratification by many signatories and the early achievement of the fortieth ratification of the Convention on 16 September 1998, which, according to the provisions of article 17 of the Convention, will result in the entry into force of the Convention on 1 March 1999,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization,

1. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to sign or, after entry into force, to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;[62]

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention without delay subsequent to their signature;

3. *Renews its call upon* all States to contribute towards the full realization and effective implementation of the Convention to advance the care and rehabilitation, and the social and economic reintegration of mine victims, and mine awareness programmes, and the removal of anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and the assurance of their destruction;

4. *Welcomes* the generous offer by the Government of Mozambique to act as host for the First Meeting of the States Parties;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999;

6. *Invites* all States parties to the First Meeting of the States Parties and, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Meeting as observers in accordance with the agreed rules of procedure.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

O

REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 P of 9 December 1997 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,[23]

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[62] See CD/1478.

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,[63]

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

P

CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,[64] which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

Q

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND ADJACENT AREAS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 N of 9 December 1997,

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[63] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/48/42), annex II.

[64] CD/1064.

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[23] the first special session devoted to disarmament, as well as of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[25]

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,[49] Rarotonga,[50] Bangkok,[51] and Pelindaba,[52] establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,[65] to, *inter alia*, the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons, and underlining also the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Recalling the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[66]

1. *Welcomes* the continuing contribution that the Antarctic Treaty[65] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[49] Rarotonga,[50] Bangkok[51] and Pelindaba[52] are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls* for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all regional States, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

4. *Reiterates* the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls upon* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

6. *Encourages* the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

R

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 52/38 T of 9 December 1997, adopted without a vote, in which it welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[67]

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that since the adoption of resolution 52/38 T, fourteen additional States have ratified the Convention, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and twenty,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

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[65] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[66] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[67] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), appendix I.

3. *Stresses also* the vital importance of full and effective implementation of, and compliance with, all provisions of the Convention;

4. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of universal adherence to the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become States parties to the Convention without delay;

6. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

7. *Welcomes* the emerging cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and efforts towards the prompt conclusion of a relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

S

TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Considering the urgent need to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of all types of armaments,

Considering also that openness and transparency relating to all types of armaments would contribute greatly to confidence-building and security among States,

Recognizing that an enhanced level of transparency relating to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction and transfers of equipment and technologies directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications, would promote stability, strengthen regional and international peace and security, and accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[68] in its current form, constitutes an important first step towards the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Convinced that the principle of transparency should also apply to all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications,

Aware of the need to foster international efforts in this direction through, *inter alia*, the constant review of the operation of the Register with a view to its further development,

Stressing the need to achieve universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] and of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[67] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[69] with a view to realizing the goal of the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on transparency in armaments,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on transparency in armaments;[70]

2. *Recalls* the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which convened in 1994 and 1997 to consider the continuing operation of the Register[68] and its further development, and the views expressed and proposals presented therein;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving greater progress in the further development of the Register in order that it may truly enhance confidence-building and security among States and accelerate efforts towards attainment of the goal of general and complete disarmament, and to that end urges Member States to submit their views to the Secretary-General concerning the following matters with a view to their consideration by the Group of Governmental Experts, which is to be convened in 2000:

(*a*) The early expansion of the scope of the Register;

(*b*) The elaboration of practical means for the further development of the Register in order to increase transparency related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons;

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[68] See resolution 46/36 L.

[69] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[70] A/53/334 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

T

ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994, concerning the illicit circulation of small arms, and its resolution 51/45 F of 10 December 1996 on measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/38 J of 9 December 1997 on small arms,

Expressing its appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 51/45 F[71] and resolution 52/38 C,[72]

Also expressing its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General of 13 April 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[30] and in this context takes note of the ongoing consideration by the Security Council of the issue of illicit arms flows to and in Africa,

Welcoming the initiatives by States members of the Economic Community of West African States to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons,

Welcoming also the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,[73]

Welcoming further the decision on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons taken by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998,[31]

Welcoming the adoption of the European Union programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the initiatives undertaken in its implementation,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Welcoming the announcement of the Secretary-General on 14 August 1998 designating the Department for Disarmament Affairs as the focal point to coordinate all action on small arms within the United Nations system,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the Secretariat, in particular with regard to the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms,

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, taking into account the ongoing work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies, and experts in the field on:

(*a*) The magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms;

(*b*) Possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches;

(*c*) The role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of his consultations;

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide the necessary assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of the implementation of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

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[71] A/52/229.

[72] A/53/207.

[73] A/53/78, annex.

U

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WITH A VIEW TO THE ULTIMATE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 H of 15 December 1994, 50/70 C of 12 December 1995, 51/45 G of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 K of 9 December 1997,

Bearing in mind the recent nuclear tests which pose a challenge to international efforts to strengthen the global regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Looking forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II),[74] and welcoming the joint statement on parameters for the future reduction of nuclear forces, issued by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation,[75]

Welcoming the efforts of other nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals, most recently that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Welcoming also the accession by Brazil to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24]

Reaffirming the conviction that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, ensuring international peace and security,

Welcoming the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee[54] which shall negotiate on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995[55] and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it without delay and without conditions;

2. *Reaffirms also* the importance for all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty;

3. *Calls* for the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

4. *Recognizes* that, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, it is important and necessary to pursue such actions as:

(*a*) The early signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[48] by all States with a view to its early entry into force, and cessation of nuclear tests pending its entry into force;

(*b*) The early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

(*c*) Multilateral discussions on possible future steps on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation;

(*d*) The early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II)[74] and the early commencement and conclusion of negotiations for START III by the Russian Federation and the United States of America;

(*e*) Further efforts by the five nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally and through their negotiations;

5. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States to keep the States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress or efforts made towards nuclear disarmament;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, and notes the importance of the safe and effective management of the resultant fissile materials;

7. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, *inter alia*, nuclear weapons, confirming and strengthening if necessary their policies not to export equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to the proliferation of those weapons;

8. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to make their best efforts for the success of the next Review Conference, which will be held in 2000;

9. *Encourages* continued serious discussions on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in appropriate forums.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

V

TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 R of 9 December 1997 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[68] constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

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[74] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 18: 1993 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.1), appendix II.

[75] A/53/371–S/1998/848, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/848.

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 1997,[70]

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms its determination* to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[68] as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General by 31 May annually with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;[76]

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement from national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types and models;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and, to that end, recalls:

(*a*) Its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(*b*) Its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2000, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and his reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[77] with a view to a decision at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

W

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE *LEGALITY OF THE THREAT OR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 O of 9 December 1997,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[25] and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recalling also the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

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[76] A/52/316.

[77] A/49/316 and A/52/316.

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty[65] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[49] Rarotonga,[50] Bangkok[51] and Pelindaba[52] are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Noting the efforts by the States possessing the largest inventories of nuclear weapons to reduce their stockpiles of such weapons through bilateral and unilateral agreements or arrangements, and calling for the intensification of such efforts to accelerate the significant reduction of nuclear-weapon arsenals,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1998 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[47]

Taking note of the relevant portions of the note by the Secretary-General[78] relating to the implementation of resolution 52/38 O,

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States to fulfil immediately that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations in 1999 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its fifty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

X

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 L of 9 December 1997 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972[69] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993[67] have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[23] the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time-frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[48] and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on the joint undertaking of no first use of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States and on adequate security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of such weapons for non-nuclear-weapon States, respectively, and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, should be integral measures in a programme leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

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[78] A/53/208 and Add.1.

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[79] to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[74] by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I[79] and START II[74] Treaties by the States parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all the nuclear-weapon States,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[47] and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Mindful of paragraph 114 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[45] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations in 1998 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Bearing in mind the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons,[80] and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

Commending the initiative by twenty-six delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21[81] proposing a comprehensive mandate for an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, which includes negotiations for, as a first step, a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, an agreement on further steps required in a phased programme with time-frames leading to the total elimination of these weapons and a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the Special Coordinator on that item[55] and the views relating to the scope of the treaty,

Taking note of the joint declaration issued on 9 June 1998 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda",[82] supported and responded to by a number of States including some members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,

1. *Recognizes* that, in view of recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all the nuclear-weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons with a specified framework of time;

2. *Recognizes also* that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

3. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls* for the conclusion, as a first step, of a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

6. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons with a specified framework of time;

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[79] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 16: 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IX.1), appendix II.

[80] A/C.1/51/12, annex.

[81] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No.* 27 (A/52/27), para. 30.

[82] A/53/138, annex.

7. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of a total ban on nuclear weapons through a nuclear-weapons convention, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument of the joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and urges a speedy conclusion of a universal and non-discriminatory convention thereon, and also welcomes the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and urges the pursuit of efforts in this regard as a matter of priority;

9. *Expresses its concern* at the continuing opposition by some nuclear-weapon States to the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, as called for in General Assembly resolution 52/38 L;

10. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1999 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time through a nuclear weapons convention;

11. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons,[80] as well as the mandate for the ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, proposed by the twenty-six delegations;[81]

12. *Calls* for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament at an early date with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time through a nuclear weapons convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

Y

TOWARDS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD: THE NEED FOR A NEW AGENDA

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Concerned at the prospect of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons,

Concerned also at the continued retention of the nuclear-weapons option by those three States that are nuclear-weapons capable and that have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24]

Believing that the proposition that nuclear weapons can be retained in perpetuity and never used accidentally or by decision defies credibility, and that the only complete defence is the elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again,

Concerned that the nuclear-weapon States have not fulfilled speedily and totally their commitment to the elimination of their nuclear weapons,

Concerned also that those three States that are nuclear-weapons capable and that have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have failed to renounce their nuclear-weapons option,

Bearing in mind that the overwhelming majority of States entered into legally binding commitments not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and that these undertakings have been made in the context of the corresponding legally binding commitments by the nuclear-weapon States to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Stressing that the international community must not enter the third millennium with the prospect that the possession of nuclear weapons will be considered legitimate for the indefinite future, and convinced that the present juncture provides a unique opportunity to proceed to prohibit and eradicate them for all time,

Recognizing that the total elimination of nuclear weapons will require measures to be taken firstly by those nuclear-weapon States that have the largest arsenals, and stressing that these States must be joined in a seamless process by those nuclear-weapon States with lesser arsenals in the near future,

Welcoming the achievements to date and the future promise of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks process and the possibility it offers for development as a plurilateral mechanism including all the nuclear-weapon States, for the practical dismantling and destruction of nuclear armaments undertaken in pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Believing that there are a number of practical steps that the nuclear-weapon States can and should take immediately before the actual elimination of nuclear arsenals and the development of requisite verification regimes take place, and, in this connection, noting certain recent unilateral and other steps,

Welcoming the agreement recently reached in the Conference on Disarmament on the establishment of an Ad

Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[55] and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and considering that such a treaty must further underpin the process towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that, for the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be achieved, effective international cooperation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons is vital and must be enhanced through, *inter alia*, the extension of international controls over all fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Emphasizing also the importance of existing nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and of the signature and ratification of the relevant protocols to these treaties,

Noting the joint ministerial declaration of 9 June 1998[82] and its call for a new international agenda to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, through the pursuit, in parallel, of a series of mutually reinforcing measures at the bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels,

1. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to the speedy and total elimination of their respective nuclear weapons and, without delay, to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to the elimination of these weapons, thereby fulfilling their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[24]

2. *Calls upon* the United States of America and the Russian Federation to bring the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II)[74] into force without further delay and immediately thereafter to proceed with negotiations on START III with a view to its early conclusion;

3. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the necessary steps towards the seamless integration of all five nuclear-weapon States into the process leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

4. *Also calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to pursue vigorously the reduction of reliance on non-strategic nuclear weapons and negotiations on their elimination as an integral part of their overall nuclear disarmament activities;

5. *Further calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to proceed to the de-alerting of their nuclear weapons and, in turn, to the removal of nuclear warheads from delivery vehicles;

6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to examine further interim measures, including measures to enhance strategic stability and accordingly to review strategic doctrines;

7. *Calls upon* those three States that are nuclear-weapon capable and that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reverse clearly and urgently the pursuit of all nuclear weapons development or deployment and to refrain from any action which could undermine regional and international peace and security and the efforts of the international community towards nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation;

8. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to adhere unconditionally and without delay to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to take all the necessary measures which flow from adherence to this instrument;

9. *Also calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[83]

10. *Further calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify, unconditionally and without delay, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[48] and, pending the entry into force of the Treaty, to observe a moratorium on nuclear tests;

11. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material[84] and to work towards its further strengthening;

12. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to pursue its negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee established under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[55] and the mandate contained therein, of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, taking into consideration both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament objectives, and to conclude these negotiations without delay, and, pending the entry into force of the treaty, urges States to observe a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

13. *Also calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish an appropriate subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament and, to that end, to pursue as a matter of priority its intensive consultations on appropriate methods and approaches with a view to reaching such a decision without delay;

14. *Considers* that an international conference on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which would effectively complement efforts being undertaken in other settings, could facilitate the consolidation of a new agenda for a nuclear-weapon-free world;

15. *Recalls* the importance of the decisions and resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-

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[83] See IAEA/GOV/2914, attachment 1.

[84] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1456, No. 24631.

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[85] and underlines the importance of implementing fully the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty;

16. *Affirms* that the development of verification arrangements will be necessary for the maintenance of a world free from nuclear weapons, and requests the International Atomic Energy Agency, together with any other relevant international organizations and bodies, to explore the elements of such a system;

17. *Calls* for the conclusion of an internationally legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

18. *Stresses* that the pursuit, extension and establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East and South Asia, represent a significant contribution to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

19. *Affirms* that a nuclear-weapon-free world will ultimately require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to compile a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda", and to review the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

Z

BILATERAL NUCLEAR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security and, in this connection, to adopt and implement measures towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Appreciating a number of positive developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, in particular the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[86] and the treaties on the reduction and limitation of strategic arms,

Appreciating also the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] and acknowledging the importance of the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the steps that have already been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to begin the process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons and removing such weapons from a deployed status, and bilateral agreements on detargeting strategic nuclear missiles,

Noting the positive climate of relations between the States of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which permits them to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security, and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security of April 1996,[87]

Urging early action to complete the ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[74] and further intensification of efforts to accelerate the implementation of agreements and unilateral decisions relating to nuclear arms reduction,

Appreciating the joint statement on future reductions in nuclear forces and the joint statement outlining the elements of an agreement for higher-velocity theatre missile defence systems, both issued on 21 March 1997 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,[88] as well as their joint statement of 10 May 1995 in connection with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,[89]

Welcoming the joint statement issued at Helsinki on 21 March 1997,[88] in which the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America reached an understanding that, after the entry into force of START II, their two countries would immediately commence negotiations on a START III agreement, which would include the establishment, by 31 December 2007, of lower aggregate levels of 2,000 to 2,500 deployed warheads,

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[85] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

[86] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 12:1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

[87] A/51/131, annex I.

[88] See CD/1460.

[89] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 944, No. 13446.

Noting with satisfaction the Protocol to START II, the Joint Agreed Statement, and the Letters on Early Deactivation, agreed to by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in New York on 26 September 1997, which are intended to be taken as further concrete steps to reduce the nuclear danger and strengthen international stability and nuclear safety,

Welcoming the signing on 26 September 1997 by Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America of a number of significant agreements that contribute to ensuring the viability of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Welcoming the significant reductions made by some of the other nuclear-weapon States, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America,[79] including the Protocol to that Treaty signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America on 5 December 1994 at Budapest;

2. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms in Moscow on 3 January 1993,[74] and urges the parties to take the steps necessary to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the reductions of strategic offensive arms being carried out in accordance with the 1991 Treaty as well as the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States of America to the 1993 Treaty in January 1996, and expresses its hope that it will soon be possible for the Russian Federation to take corresponding steps to ratify that Treaty and for the United States Senate and the State Duma of the Russian Federation to approve the Protocol to the 1993 Treaty and other documents signed on 26 September 1997, so that START II can enter into force;

4. *Expresses further satisfaction* at the continuing implementation of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[86] in particular at the completion by the parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

5. *Welcomes* the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakhstan as from 1 June 1995, from the territory of Ukraine as from 1 June 1996, and from the territory of Belarus as from 30 November 1996;

6. *Encourages* Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America to continue their cooperative efforts aimed at eliminating strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

7. *Welcomes* the participation in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[24] of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine as non-nuclear-weapon States, which thereby provided notable enhancement of the non-proliferation regime;

8. *Welcomes* the initiative signed by Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton on 2 September 1998, contained in the joint statement on the exchange of information on missile launches and early warning, to exchange information on ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles derived from each side's missile launch warning system, including the possible establishment of a centre for the exchange of missile launch data operated by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and separate from their respective national centres, and takes note of the initiative to examine bilaterally the possibility of establishing a multilateral ballistic missile and space launch vehicle pre-launch notification regime in which other States could voluntarily participate;

9. *Welcomes* the September 1998 pledge by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to remove by stages approximately fifty metric tons of plutonium from each of their nuclear weapons programmes, and to convert this material so that it can never be used in nuclear weapons;

10. *Urges* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to commence negotiations on a START III agreement immediately after ratification by the Russian Federation of START II, thereby fulfilling the commitments they undertook in the joint statement issued in Moscow on 2 September 1998;

11. *Encourages and supports* the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their efforts aimed at reducing and eliminating their nuclear weapons on the basis of existing agreements and to continue to give those efforts the highest priority in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons;

12. *Invites* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep other States Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

AA

CONVENING OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 F of 9 December 1997, *Recalling also* that, there has been a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[23] adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament, which included the Declaration, Programme of Action and Machinery for disarmament,

Bearing in mind also the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold war, the relaxation of tensions at the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations,

Taking note of paragraph 145 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[45] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",[90]

Desiring to build upon the substantive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Noting that, with the recent accomplishments made by the international community in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. *Decides*, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1998 substantive session,[90] and recommends that an item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" be included in the agenda of the Commission at its 1999 session, which should promote agreement on the agenda and timing of the special session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" and, subject to the outcome of the deliberations at the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to set an exact date for and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/78. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES: ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996 and 52/39 B of 9 December 1997,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international security,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recalling the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

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[90] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/53/42).

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa[91] and the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa,[92]

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[93]

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa,

Recalling the decision of the fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee in favour of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[94] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 52/39 B;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in implementing the programme of activities for the period 1998–1999, in particular by:

(*a*) Holding a joint meeting of ministers of defence and of the interior at Libreville from 28 to 30 April 1998 on questions of security in Central Africa;

(*b*) Organizing the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, at Bata, Equatorial Guinea, from 18 to 21 May 1998;

(*c*) Holding a Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures for the Consolidation of Peace for Senior Military and Civilian Officials at Yaoundé, from 27 to 31 July 1998;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at the ninth and tenth ministerial meetings, in particular the organization of joint military exercises to simulate peacekeeping operations;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to convene as soon as possible a summit meeting of heads of State and Government with a view to establishing a higher council for the promotion of peace, the prevention, management and settlement of political crises and armed conflicts in Central Africa and a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

7. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the establishment of an early warning mechanism in Central Africa which will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member States will carry out the work programme of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support in making operational the early warning mechanism that they have just established;

10. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

11. *Appeals* to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the activities referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

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[91] A/50/474, annex I.

[92] A/53/258–S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/763.

[93] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[94] A/53/369.

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

B

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[95] in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre remains valid and that the Centre could be a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation in the post-cold-war era,

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Kathmandu and at Jakarta in 1998,

Welcoming the positive outcome of the tenth anniversary of the Kathmandu process,

Also welcoming the idea of the possible creation of an educational and training programme for peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for young people with different backgrounds, to be financed from voluntary contributions,

Noting the important role of the Regional Centre in assisting region-specific initiatives of Member States, including its assistance in the work related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,

Appreciating highly the important role that Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the continuing operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Underscores* the importance of the Kathmandu process as a powerful vehicle for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogue;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the continuing political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, so as to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and its implementation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking note of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

C

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December

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[95] A/53/323.

1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997,

Bearing in mind the financial difficulties that the Regional Centre has in implementing its programmes of activities,

Aware of the widespread support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre and the important role that the Centre can play in the present context in promoting confidence-building measures at the regional level, thereby promoting progress in the area of sustainable development,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[93]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in support of efforts at promoting understanding and cooperation among African countries in the areas of peace, disarmament, security and development;[96]

2. *Reaffirms* that there is need to revitalize the Regional Centre and provide it with resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and programmes, and welcomes the steps taken to this end by the Secretary-General, including the appointment of a Director of the Regional Centre;

3. *Appeals* urgently to Member States, mainly to African States, as well as to international governmental organizations and foundations to make voluntary contributions in order to revitalize the Regional Centre, strengthen its programmes of activities and facilitate the implementation of such programmes;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to assist the new Director of the Regional Centre in his task of stabilizing the financial situation and revitalizing the activities of the Regional Centre;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

D

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[97]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[98] it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve a universal nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1998 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 52/39 C of 9 December 1997,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

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[96] See A/53/348.

[97] A/51/218, annex.

[98] Resolution S-10/2.

E

UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT INFORMATION PROGRAMME

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament,[99] by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 51/46 A of 10 December 1996,

Welcoming the re-establishment of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and expressing the hope that this action will lead to a reinvigoration of the United Nations information and outreach activities in the field of disarmament,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,[100] and welcoming the greater emphasis on products for the general public and the expansion of electronic means to disseminate information to major constituents,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;[100]

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, and in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the information centres;

5. *Recommends* that the Programme focus its efforts:

(*a*) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, particularly through the publication in all official languages of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* and updates of the *Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements*, and ad hoc publications, and through the Home Page on the Internet of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other outreach activities, such as the film entitled *Messenger of Peace*;

(*b*) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(*c*) To organize meetings to facilitate exchange of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme to sustain a strong outreach programme, and invites all Member States to make contributions to the Fund;

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the education field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

F

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRES FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 as it relates to the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, and welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint Directors for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional

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[99] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[100] A/53/161 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,[99]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to the understanding and cooperation among the States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 146 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the heads of State or Government welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly on maintaining and revitalizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,[101]

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

G

UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT FELLOWSHIP, TRAINING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme,[102]

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[98] the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly,[103] the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to continue the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has already trained an appreciable number of public officials selected from geographical regions represented in the United Nations system, most of whom are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament affairs in their respective countries or Governments,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme is observing in 1998 its twentieth anniversary and, as designed, continues to enable an increased number of public officials, in particular from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[103] and the report of the Secretary-General[104] approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1997 and 1998 fellows to

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[101] A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[102] A/53/426.

[103] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes*, agenda items 9–13, document A/S-12/32.

[104] A/33/305.

study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services"

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/79. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

A

REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[105]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996 and 52/40 B of 9 December 1997,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[105]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

3. *Reaffirms also* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

4. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of the review of its work in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 at the resumed session of the First Committee in June 1998, resulting in the adoption of Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998;

5. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a two-item phased approach;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[106] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[107]

7. *Notes* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1998 organizational session, adopted the following items for consideration at its 1999 substantive session:

(*a*) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

(*b*) Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996;

(*c*) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 1999 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[108] together with all the official records of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

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[105] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/53/42).

[106] Resolution S-10/2.

[107] A/CN.10/137.

[108] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/53/27).

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

B

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[108]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Recognizing that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Welcomes* the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Also welcomes* the decisions of the Conference on Disarmament to establish an Ad Hoc Committee under item 4 of its agenda entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, which could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument, as well as an Ad Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[109] and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and takes note of the recommendations that they be re-established at the beginning of the 1999 session;

4. *Further welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to entrust its successive Presidents with the task of pursuing intensive consultations and seeking the views of its members on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", and takes note of the recommendation by the last President of the 1998 session that they should resume at the start of the 1999 session;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the desire of the Conference on Disarmament to promote substantive progress during its 1999 session, and expresses the hope that appropriate consultations during the inter-sessional period could lead to commencement of early work on various agenda items;

6. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to continue its consultations on the review of its membership with a view to reaching an early agreement on its further expansion;

7. *Also encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/80. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is GC(42)/RES/21 adopted on 25 September 1998,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[110] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty[111] and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

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[109] CD/1299.

[110] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[110] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/48 of 10 December 1996, Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[112] and its signature by one hundred and eighty-seven States, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the only State in the region that is not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[111] to accede to the Treaty without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/81. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/42 of 9 December 1997 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[113]

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[113] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[113] and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[113] which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, on 13 October 1995 of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[114] and on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[115]

Recalling that the States parties at the Review Conference declared their commitment to keeping the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems of landmines,

Also recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

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[111] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[112] See resolution 50/245.

[113] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[114] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex A.

[115] Ibid., annex B.

Welcoming the decision adopted by the Review Conference in its Final Declaration[116] on 3 May 1996 to convene a Review Conference no later than 2001,

Noting that in accordance with article 13 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), a conference of States parties to that Protocol shall be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues relating to the Protocol,

1. *Expresses satisfaction* that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[114] entered into force on 30 July 1998, commends it to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

2. *Welcomes* the adherence to the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) by twenty-one States and its entry into force on 3 December 1998, and calls, in particular, on all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of amended Protocol II, to convene in 1999 the first annual conference of States parties to the Protocol, in accordance with article 13 of amended Protocol II;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties to amended Protocol II to attend the first annual conference, and notes that the parties, under provisions to be adopted in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, may decide to invite representatives of States not parties to the Protocol, and of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

5. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and particularly to amended Protocol II, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/82. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 52/43 of 9 December 1997,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, and their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[117]

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[118]

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[116] Ibid., annex C.

[117] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[118] A/53/422 and Add.1.

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, and encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, *inter alia*, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures, in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, *inter alia*, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;[119]

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

8. *Invites* all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/83. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[120] was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the holding on 14 February 1997 of the eleventh special session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

Recalling that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

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[119] See resolution 46/36 L.

[120] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

Recalling further that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments[121] to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,[120] with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Recalling resolution C/E/RES.27 of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,[122] in which the Council called for the promotion of cooperation and consultations with other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Noting with satisfaction that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is now in force for thirtytwo sovereign States of the region,

Also noting with satisfaction that on 27 March 1998 the Dominican Republic deposited its instrument of ratification of the amendment to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolution 290 (E–VII) of 26 August 1992,

Further noting with satisfaction that on 21 August 1998 Guatemala deposited its instrument of ratification of the amendment to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolution 267 (E–V) of 3 July 1990,

Noting with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela,

1. *Welcomes* the concrete steps taken by some countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);[120]

2. *Urges* the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E–V) of 3 July 1990, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (E–VII) of 26 August 1992;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

53/84. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and forty-one States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[123] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[124] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, *inter alia*, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference,[125] of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to the participation of all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[126] agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[127] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to the participation of all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

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[121] A/47/467, annex.

[122] See CD/1392.

[123] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[124] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

[125] See BWC/CONF.III/23.

[126] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[127] BWC/SPCONF/1.

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

Recalling also the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[128] in which the heads of State or Government noted the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol, stressed the importance of achieving further substantive progress for the conclusion of a universally acceptable and legally binding instrument designed to strengthen the Convention and reaffirmed the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[129] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the Declaration of the informal Ministerial Meeting, held in New York on 23 September 1998, in which the participants and the co-sponsors affirmed their strong support for the Convention and for strengthening the effectiveness and improving the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction[123] to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[124]

2. *Also welcomes* the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol to strengthen the Convention, and reaffirms the decision of the Fourth Review Conference urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and urging it to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;[130]

3. *Calls upon* all States parties, in this context, to accelerate the negotiations and to redouble their efforts within the Ad Hoc Group to formulate an efficient, cost-effective and practical regime and seek early resolution of the outstanding issues through renewed flexibility in order to complete the protocol on the basis of consensus at the earliest possible date;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

5. *Calls upon* all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
4 December 1998

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[128] A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[129] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

[130] See BWC/CONF.IV/9.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

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53/44. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 52/55 of 10 December 1997, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,[1]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-third session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Also noting the provisions contained in section XII, paragraph 38, of the annex to its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system,

Recalling its invitation to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization, in its resolution 52/55, to consider the functions and role of the Scientific Committee and to submit a recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,

Taking note of the recommendation of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization that the General Assembly maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including the present reporting arrangements,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-three years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Decides* to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including the present reporting arrangements;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of atomic radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

9. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/45. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996 and 52/56 of 10 December 1997,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/53/46).

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[2] on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[3]

Noting with satisfaction that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) will be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session,[4]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-first session;[4]

2. *Invites* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[5] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-seventh session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working group, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56;[6]

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(*a*) Continue its consideration of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;[7]

(*b*) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(*c*) Continue its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space and establish a working group to consider the item;

(*d*) Continue its consideration of other matters, including informal consultations on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda items for the Legal Subcommittee;

5. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, should suspend consideration in its working group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening its working group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its session in 2000 to warrant the reconvening of the working group;

6. *Notes* that, in the context of paragraph 4 (*c*) above, the Legal Subcommittee would implement the work plan that it adopted at its thirty-sixth session;[8]

7. *Endorses* the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Committee, at its forty-first session, reviewed further its requirements for unedited verbatim transcripts and agreed to continue the use of those transcripts;

9. *Takes note* of the agreement reached by the Committee at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56;

10. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-fifth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56;[9]

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[2] A/53/265.

[3] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9–21 August 1982* and corrigenda (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20).

[5] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), chap. II.D.

[7] See resolution 47/68.

[8] See A/AC.105/674, annex II.B.

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), chap. II.C.

11. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued to consider on a priority basis the agenda item on space debris and that the work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session concentrated on the topic of space debris mitigation measures, on the basis of the multi-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session;[10]

12. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, during its consideration of the item on space debris at its thirty-sixth session, will concentrate on finalizing the full technical report on space debris for adoption;

13. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should consider the following priority items:

(*a*) Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III;

(*b*) Space debris;

(*c*) The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

14. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session and the preparatory work to be conducted for UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee should suspend, as an exception, its consideration of the following items for one year, to be resumed at its thirty-seventh session:

(*a*) General exchange of views;

(*b*) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;

(*c*) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(*d*) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(*e*) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(*f*) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

(*g*) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the International Geosphere-Biosphere (Global Change) Programme;

(*h*) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(*i*) Matters relating to astronomy;

(*j*) The theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session of the Subcommittee, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

15. *Notes* that the theme for the special attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session will be identified by the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session;

16. *Endorses* the four-year work plan for consideration of the agenda item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session, and agrees that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its thirty-seventh session to conduct its work in accordance with the work plan;

17. *Notes* that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee concluded its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Conference, and takes note of the conclusions of the Working Group of the Whole, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole;[11]

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Working Group of the Whole assisted the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III in its preparatory work for the Conference, and agrees that the Advisory Committee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole at its 1999 session to finalize its preparatory work;

19. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1999, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;[12]

20. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued its education programme in 1998 and that significant progress has been achieved in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions;

21. *Notes* that, pursuant to the request in paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 51/123, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at their 1998 sessions, carried out the tasks entrusted to them in their roles as the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee, respectively, for UNISPACE III;

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[10] A/AC.105/605, para. 83.

[11] A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II.

[12] See A/AC.105/693 and Corr.1, sect. I.

22. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session, concerning, in particular, the structure of the draft report and the provisional rules of procedure of UNISPACE III, as contained in its report,[13] and requests the Preparatory and Advisory Committees and the executive secretariat to carry out their tasks in accordance with those recommendations;

23. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding of the preparatory regional conference at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998 and its recommendations, the preparatory regional conference at Concepción, Chile, from 12 to 16 October 1998 and the Concepción Declaration of 16 October 1998[14] and the preparatory regional conference at Rabat from 26 to 30 October 1998, and also notes with satisfaction that a preparatory regional conference will be held in Romania from 25 to 29 January 1999;

24. *Encourages* all Member States, organizations within the United Nations system and other international organizations with space activities, as well as space-related industries and national organizations, invited through their Governments, to contribute actively to achieving the objectives of UNISPACE III;

25. *Invites* Member States, space agencies and space-related international and national organizations to support the preparations for UNISPACE III by providing the executive secretariat with junior or senior experts, by co-sponsoring activities related to UNISPACE III and by providing other voluntary contributions;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* that in order to service UNISPACE III, to the extent feasible, within existing resources, the savings realized by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1998 and 1999 in conference-servicing resources by shortening, as an exception, their regular annual sessions will be utilized;

27. *Agrees* that pre-Conference consultations by all States Members of the United Nations should be convened on 18 July 1999 at the site of UNISPACE III, within existing resources, and requests the Preparatory Committee to report during the consultations on the work it has conducted;

28. *Requests* UNISPACE III to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

29. *Agrees* that in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Committee at its forty-second session and the preparatory work to be conducted for UNISPACE III, the Committee should suspend its work on the following items for one year, to be resumed at its forty-third session:

(*a*) Consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

(*b*) Consideration of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

30. *Recommends* that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

31. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

32. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

33. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, particularly in the developing countries;

34. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

35. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/46. Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/57 of 10 December 1997 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[15]

Welcoming the signature in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the people of Palestine, of the Declaration of Principles on

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[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), chap. II.B.

[14] A/C.4/53/8, annex.

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/53/13).

Interim Self-Government Arrangements[16] and the subsequent implementation agreements, and also the signature of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[17]

Encouraging the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees of the Middle East peace process to continue its important work,

Welcoming the completion of the transfer of the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to Gaza, to its area of operations,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees;

3. *Notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1999;

4. *Notes* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency since the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements,[16] and stresses the importance that contributions to this Programme are not at the expense of the General Fund;

5. *Welcomes* strengthened cooperation between the Agency and the World Bank and other specialized agencies, and calls upon the Agency to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories;

6. *Urges* all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territories;

7. *Reiterates its deep concern* regarding the persisting critical financial situation of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;[15]

8. *Commends* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to move towards budgetary transparency and internal efficiency, and hopes that such moves will continue;

9. *Notes with profound concern* that the structural deficit problem confronting the Agency portends an almost certain decline in the living conditions of the Palestine refugees and that it, therefore, has possible consequences for the peace process;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly, and encourages contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Agency until 30 June 2002, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/47. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 52/58 of 10 December 1997 and the previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, by which it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[18]

Having considered the report of the Working Group,[19]

Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[20]

Deeply concerned about the persisting critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of the necessary Agency services to Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the current minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,

1. *Commends* the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

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[16] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[17] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

[18] A/36/866 and Corr.1; see also A/37/591.

[19] A/53/569.

[20] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/53/13).

Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;

2. *Takes note with approval* of the report of the Working Group;[19]

3. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/48. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 52/59 of 10 December 1997,[21]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[22]

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[23] with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Expresses the hope* for an accelerated return of displaced persons through the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements;[23]

3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its fifty-fourth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/49. Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993, 49/35 D of 9 December 1994, 50/28 D of 6 December 1995, 51/127 of 13 December 1996 and 52/60 of 10 December 1997,

Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[24]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[25]

1. *Urges* all States to respond to the appeal in its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and reiterated in subsequent relevant resolutions in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training;

2. *Strongly appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special

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[21] A/53/471.

[22] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/53/13).

[23] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[24] A/53/472.

[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/53/13).

allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that responded favourably to its resolutions on this question;

4. *Invites* the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students;

5. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including, in due course, the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees;

6. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees;

7. *Requests* the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/50. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[26]

Taking note of the letter dated 28 September 1998 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East addressed to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report of the Commissioner-General,[27]

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolutions 48/40 E,[28] 48/40 H[29] and 48/40 J[30] of 10 December 1993 and 49/35 C of 9 December 1994,[31]

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[32]

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[33] to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Aware of the fact that Palestine refugees have, for over five decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Also aware of the continuing needs of Palestine refugees throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in the other fields of operation, namely, in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Further aware of the valuable work done by the refugee affairs officers of the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency and its effect on the continuity of provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Aware of the work of the new Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency,

Recalling the signing in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[34] and the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[35]

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[36]

Aware of the establishment of a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization in accordance with General Assembly decision 48/417 of 10 December 1993,

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[26] Ibid.

[27] Ibid., p. ix.

[28] A/49/440.

[29] A/49/442.

[30] A/49/443.

[31] A/50/451.

[32] Resolution 22 A (I).

[33] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[34] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[35] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

[36] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/49/13), annex I.

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities, including the full implementation of decision 48/417;

3. *Welcomes* the completion of the transfer of the headquarters of the Agency to Gaza and the signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the Agency and the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Acknowledges* the support of the host Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[33] and to abide scrupulously by its provisions;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations[32] with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency and the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Calls once again upon* the Government of Israel to compensate the Agency for damage to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side;

8. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied Palestinian territory;

9. *Notes* that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization[34] and subsequent implementation agreements has had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory;

10. *Notes also* that the functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation;

11. *Notes further* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency;

12. *Expresses concern* over the remaining austerity measures which have affected the quality and level of some of the services of the Agency;

13. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to consider the possibility of modernizing the archives of the Agency;

14. *Urges* all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/51. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 52/62 of 10 December 1997,[37]

Taking note also of the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998,[38]

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[39] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,[40] and of the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,[41] to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees, and calling for the commencement of those negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity;

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[37] A/53/644.

[38] A/53/518 and Corr.1, annex.

[39] Resolution 217 A (III).

[40] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, Annex No. 11, document A/5700.

[41] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, expresses its appreciation for the work done to preserve and modernize the existing records of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to complete this task;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues in the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/52. University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 15 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D and K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991, 47/69 J of 14 December 1992, 48/40 I of 10 December 1993, 49/35 G of 9 December 1994, 50/28 G of 6 December 1995, 51/130 of 13 December 1996 and 52/63 of 10 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[42]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998,[43]

1. *Emphasizes* the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/53. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[44] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[45] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[46]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, and relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the lasting impact of the uprising (intifada) of the Palestinian people,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a primary violation of human rights,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[47] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[48]

Recalling the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in

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[42] A/53/551.

[43] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/53/13).

[44] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[45] Resolution 217 A (III).

[46] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[47] See A/53/136 and Add.1 and A/53/661.

[48] A/53/259, A/53/260, A/53/264 and A/53/660.

Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[49] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[50]

Expressing the hope that, with the progress of the peace process, the Israeli occupation will be brought to an end and therefore violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people will cease,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. *Demands* that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the reports of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;[47]

4. *Expresses concern* about the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, as a result of Israeli practices and measures and the difficulties confronting the Middle East peace process;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli lack of compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[44] and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of prisoners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(*b*) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(*c*) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(*d*) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(*e*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/54. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[51] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[52]

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the convening of the meeting of experts of the high contracting parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[53] at Geneva, from 27 to 29 October 1998, at the initiative of the Government of Switzerland in its capacity as the depository of the Convention, concerning general problems of application of the Convention in general and, in particular, in occupied territories,

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[49] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[50] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

[51] See A/53/136 and Add.1 and A/53/661.

[52] A/53/259, A/53/260, A/53/264 and A/53/660.

[53] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[53] is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the *de jure* applicability of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[54] to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the recommendation contained in its resolutions ES–10/3 of 15 July 1997, ES–10/4 of 13 November 1997 and ES–10/5 of 17 March 1998 with regard to the convening of a conference of the high contracting parties to the Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/55. Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[55] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Aware of the Middle East peace process started at Madrid and the agreements reached between the parties, in particular the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[56] and the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 28 September 1995,[57]

Expressing grave concern about the decision of the Government of Israel to resume settlement activities, including the construction of the new settlement in Jebel Abu Ghneim, in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the agreements reached between the parties,

Gravely concerned in particular about the dangerous situation resulting from actions taken by the illegal armed Israeli settlers in the occupied territory, as illustrated by the massacre of Palestinian worshippers by an illegal Israeli settler in Al-Khalil on 25 February 1994,

1. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[55] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

3. *Demands* complete cessation of the construction of the new settlement in Jebel Abu Ghneim and of all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. *Stresses* the need for full implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994, in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including, *inter alia,* confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/56. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session, and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

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[54] Ibid., Nos. 970–973.

[55] Ibid., No. 973.

[56] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[57] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the most recent of which are resolutions 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and 1073 (1996) of 28 September 1996,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[58] and the reports of the Secretary-General,[59]

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[60] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[61] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[62]

Noting the withdrawal of the Israeli army, which took place in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area in accordance with the agreements reached between the parties, and the initiation of the Palestinian Authority in those areas,

Noting also the redeployment of the Israeli army from six cities in the West Bank,

Concerned about the continuing violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, especially the use of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation and establishment of settlements and the continuing actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,

Expressing its deep concern in particular about the closure by the Israeli authorities of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, which prevents the freedom of movement of persons and goods and is the cause of great economic and social hardship, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the agreements reached between the two sides,

Convinced of the positive impact of a temporary international or foreign presence in the occupied Palestinian territory for the safety and protection of the Palestinian people,

Expressing its appreciation to the countries that participated in the Temporary International Presence in Hebron for their positive contribution,

Convinced of the need for the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 904 (1994) and 1073 (1996),

1. *Determines* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[60] and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity and that such measures should cease immediately;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all of the occupied Palestinian territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including the removal of restrictions on movement into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

4. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned, in line with agreements reached;

5. *Calls* for complete respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of all fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people, pending the extension of the self-government arrangements to the rest of the occupied territory;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/57. The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[63]

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan occupied since 1967 has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the last of which was resolution 52/68 of 10 December 1997,

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[58] See A/53/136 and Add.1 and A/53/661.

[59] A/53/259, A/53/260, A/53/264 and A/53/660.

[60] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[61] A/48/486–S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[62] A/51/889–S/1997/357, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1997*, document S/1997/357.

[63] See A/53/136 and Add.1 and A/53/661.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 52/68,[64]

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, *inter alia,* it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[65] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, *inter alia,* decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[65] and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/58. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 52/69 of 10 December 1997 and 53/2 of 6 October 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,[66]

Affirming, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping operations, that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Taking note of the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by many Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[67]

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 44 to 115 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping

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[64] A/53/260.

[65] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[66] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/53/1).

[67] A/53/127.

operations in years to come or that participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/59. Questions relating to information

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INFORMATION IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[68]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,[69]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(*a*) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(*b*) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and to condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(*c*) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(*d*) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(*e*) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

(*f*) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication[70] of the

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[68] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/53/21/Rev.1).

[69] A/53/509.

[70] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, Belgrade, 23 September to 28 October 1980*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

B

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its decision to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General has established a post of Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, with the appointee to that post to head the Department of Public Information, and noting that the Secretary-General concurs with the view expressed in the report of the Task Force on the Reorientation of United Nations Public Information Activities entitled "Global vision, local voice: a strategic communications programme for the United Nations"[71] that the information and communications function should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it established the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to implement fully the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993;

3. *Expresses its concern* about the trend to reduce the resources allocated to the Department of Public Information, and reiterates that all changes or reductions must be in accordance with the existing budgetary rules as consistent with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement fully the mandates as established by the General Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the conceptual framework outlined by the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations public information activities as contained in his report on implementation of the measures regarding information and communications,[72] encourages him to develop further his proposals for the reorientation of United Nations activities in the area of public information and communications, taking into account the views of Member States in this regard, and requests him to submit his detailed plan thereon to the Committee on Information for consideration at its twenty-first session in 1999;

6. *Emphasizes* that, through its reorientation, the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to the developing countries and others with special needs, including countries in transition, and that such reorientation should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of information and communications;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information for the formation and day-to-day functioning of the information components of peacekeeping and other field operations of the United Nations, and requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department of Public Information at the planning stage of such future operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other substantive departments of the Secretariat;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen consultative arrangements further, as appropriate, between the Department of Public Information and other substantive departments of the Secretariat, in particular those dealing with development issues;

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the review of major publications by the Department of Public Information, submitted to the Committee on Information at its nineteenth session,[73] and urges the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination in all official languages of the United Nations of all its major publications;

10. *Emphasizes* that the publications should fulfil an identifiable need, should not duplicate other publications inside the United Nations system and should be produced in a cost-effective manner;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to ensure that publications, as well as other public information products of the Department of Public Information, contain comprehensive, objective and equitable information about the issues before the Organization and maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure full and direct access for the representatives of Member States to the briefings organized at Headquarters by the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General and to ensure wider dissemination of the outcome of such briefings;

13. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to ensure that information to be presented to the media is made available to delegations fully and in a timely fashion;

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of publications produced by the Department of Public Information in the sphere of development, submitted to the Committee on Information at its nineteenth session,[74] and

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[71] A/AC.198/1997/CRP.1, annex.

[72] A/AC.198/1998/2.

[73] A/AC.198/1997/3.

[74] A/AC.198/1997/4.

requests him to renew his efforts better to meet the needs for wider dissemination of development-related information;

15. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library submitted to the Committee on Information at its nineteenth session,[75] and encourages him to continue his efforts to introduce the latest technological developments into the work of the Library with a view to ensuring that it continues and strengthens its role as a broadly accessible resource for information on the United Nations for Member States and others;

16. *Reaffirms* the importance attached by Member States to the role of United Nations information centres in effectively and comprehensively disseminating information in all parts of the world, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition, and especially in those countries where there is need for greater understanding about United Nations activities;

17. *Also reaffirms* that the United Nations information centres meet the primary objectives outlined by the Committee on Information in its report on its ninth session;[76]

18. *Takes note* of the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the Reorientation of United Nations Public Information Activities[71] concerning United Nations information centres, including the proposal for the organizing of a United Nations information centres network and the establishment of regional hubs, and notes that these proposals are being considered by the Department of Public Information;

19. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the trial integration of United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, submitted to the Committee on Information at its nineteenth session;[77]

20. *Further takes note* of the observation by the Secretary-General's Task Force on the Reorientation of United Nations Public Information Activities regarding the substantial problems that some integrated information centres have encountered in performing their information and communications functions, and accordingly requests him to take this experience into account;

21. *Stresses* that the future integration exercise should be carried out in a cost-effective manner and on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the views of the host country and ensuring that the information functions and the autonomy of the United Nations information centres are not adversely affected, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-first session;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to review earlier cases of integration of United Nations information centres, in accordance with section III, paragraph 87, of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, with a view to rectifying the situation if the need arises;

23. *Requests* that, in respect of developing proposals for the establishment of regional hubs, the views of the Member States concerned be taken fully into account;

24. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in relation to the opening of new United Nations information centres, and invites the Secretary-General to make such recommendations as he may judge necessary regarding the establishment and location of these centres;

25. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretary-General on the allocation of resources to United Nations information centres in 1995,[78] and calls upon him to continue to study ways and means of rationalizing and effecting equitable disbursement of available resources to all United Nations information centres and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-first session;

26. *Welcomes* the action by some Member States with regard to providing financial and material support to United Nations information centres in their respective capitals, and invites the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to consult Member States, where appropriate, on the possibility of providing the centres with additional voluntary support on a national basis, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial requirements for the United Nations information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

27. *Takes note* of the requests by Gabon, Guinea, Haiti and Kyrgyzstan for information centres or information components;

28. *Recognizes* the continued enhanced cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point for promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials;

29. *Expresses its full support* for the wide, accurate, equal and prompt coverage of United Nations activities through the continuation of United Nations press releases both in working languages of the Secretariat, namely English and French, and, where circumstances require, in other languages, and stresses the importance of the continued speedy issue and high quality of those press releases in both working languages;

30. *Stresses* that radio is one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, such as development and peacekeeping, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/44 B;

31. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity;[79]

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the design and scope of the pilot project regarding United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity, which will

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[75] A/AC.198/1997/2 and Add.1.

[76] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/42/21), sect. III.D, recommendation 36.

[77] A/AC.198/1997/5.

[78] See A/AC.198/1996/2.

[79] A/AC.198/1998/4.

be considered by the Committee on Information at its twenty-first session in 1999;

33. *Notes*, in that context, that the Department of Public Information intends to contact Member States in order to ascertain their preparedness to provide technical facilities for the pilot project and to include that information in the report mentioned in paragraph 32 above;

34. *Encourages* the inclusion of programmes of United Nations Radio, in all available languages, on the United Nations home page on the Internet;

35. *Underlines* the continued importance for the Department of Public Information of using traditional and mass media channels to disseminate information on the United Nations, and encourages the Department of Public Information to take full advantage of recent developments in information technologies, such as the Internet, to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the dissemination of information on the United Nations, taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization;

36. *Welcomes* the steps being undertaken by the Department of Public Information to strengthen its capacity to carry out its responsibility both for maintaining and coordinating the United Nations home page and for providing its public information content;

37. *Expresses its appreciation* for the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries conducted by the Department of Public Information, and calls for its further expansion so as to include a larger number of trainees from developing countries, as well as trainees from countries in transition;

38. *Acknowledges* the important work carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its collaboration with news agencies and broadcasting organizations in developing nations in disseminating information on priority issues;

39. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue to ensure the greatest possible access for United Nations guided tours, as well as to ensure that displays in public areas are kept as informative, up-to-date, relevant and technologically innovative as possible;

40. *Urges* the Department of Public Information to take the necessary measures, through the provision of relevant and objective information, with a view to achieving the major objectives set forth in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;[80]

41. *Recalls* its resolutions concerning the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular resolutions 51/138 B of 13 December 1996 and 52/172 of 16 December 1997, and encourages the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of the consequences of this disaster;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-first session, in 1999, and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

43. *Decides* that, starting from the twenty-first session of the Committee on Information, preparation of the report of the Committee shall be carried out by an open-ended working group;

44. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

45. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/60. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[81] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[82]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 52/71 of 10 December 1997, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

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[80] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[81] A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[82] A/53/263.

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;[81]

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/61. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[83]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the

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[83] A/53/23 (Part III), chap. V. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23.*

detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Affirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/62. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[84] and the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[85]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee relating to the item,[86]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

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[84] A/53/130 and Corr.1.

[85] A/AC.109/L.1880.

[86] A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[85] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[87]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[84]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(*a*) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(*c*) Ways and means to assist the Territories in fighting drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(*d*) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

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[87] See E/1998/76.

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and its resolution 1998/38 of 30 July 1998 on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

53/63. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/74 of 10 December 1997,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[88] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[88]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

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[88] A/53/262 and Add.1.

53/64. Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 52/75 of 10 December 1997,

Recalling also the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro to the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in the context of their joint mission of good offices,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,[89]

Recalling all the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General, and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Also noting with satisfaction the agreements[90] reached by the two parties during their private direct talks aimed at the implementation of the settlement plan, and stressing the importance it attaches to a full, fair and faithful implementation of the settlement plan and the agreements aimed at its implementation,

Further noting with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the settlement plan since December 1997,

Taking note of Security Council resolutions 1131 (1997) of 29 September 1997 and 1198 (1998) of 18 September 1998,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[91]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[92]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[92]

2. *Again notes with satisfaction* the agreements[90] reached between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro for the implementation of the settlement plan[89] during their private direct talks under the auspices of James Baker III, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, and urges the parties to implement those agreements fully and in good faith;

3. *Commends* the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for their efforts in reaching these agreements as well as the two parties for the cooperation they have shown, and urges them to continue this cooperation in order to facilitate the speedy implementation of the settlement plan;

4. *Urges* the two parties to continue their cooperation with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, as well as with his Special Representative, and to refrain from undertaking anything that would undermine the implementation of the settlement plan and the agreements reached for its implementation;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress achieved in connection with the implementation of the settlement plan, and in this respect calls upon the two parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative in implementing the various phases of the settlement plan;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan;

7. *Reiterates its support* for further efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and the supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara that is impartial and free of all constraints, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara;

8. *Takes note* of Security Council resolutions 1131 (1997) and 1198 (1998);

9. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the positive ongoing implementation of the settlement plan, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[89] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1990*, document S/21360; and ibid., *Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*, document S/22464.

[90] Ibid., *Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, documents S/1997/742 and Add.1.

[91] A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[92] A/53/368.

53/65. Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[93]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[94] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia as exemplified by the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 between the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[95]

2. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and also those provisions of the Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment;

3. *Also notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

4. *Further notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

5. *Invites* the administering Power to consider inviting to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions are established, a mission of information which could comprise representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of New Caledonia to the Secretary-General;

7. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the review of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

8. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

9. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

10. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

11. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

12. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

13. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

14. *Welcomes*, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

15. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the

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[93] A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[94] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9–14.

[95] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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53/66. Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau,[96]

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau, delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

Recalling further the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Commends* Tokelau's ongoing work in charting a distinctive constitutional course, reflecting its unique traditions and environment;

4. *Also commends* Tokelau for current initiatives and endeavours, based on wide consultation with its people, to construct a true "house of Tokelau", acknowledging the role of the village as the foundation of Tokelau, as well as the need to continue the process of strengthening the basis of national self-government;

5. *Acknowledges* the attention being given to broader matters of governance, including Tokelau's efforts to establish clear local channels of responsibility and accountability in national and village government;

6. *Notes* the desire of Tokelau, in consultation with the Government of New Zealand, to take over responsibility for the Tokelau public service and the willingness of the Government of New Zealand to make the necessary legislative changes, reflecting its already well-advanced policy of devolving that part of government which deals with the interests of all of Tokelau;

7. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

8. *Welcomes* the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

9. *Invites* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau;

10. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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[96] A/53/23 (Part VII), chap. XI. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23*.

53/67. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[97]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that even thirty-eight years after the adoption of the Declaration there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Acknowledging the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Noting the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

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[97] A/53/23 (Part VI), chap. X, and A/53/23 (Part VIII), chap. XII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23.*

Mindful that in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for the Committee to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Mindful also in this connection that the Special Committee regards the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as a helpful means to fulfil its mandate, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time and that no such visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with legitimate political status options, including those defined in resolution 1541 (XV);

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

4. *Stresses* the importance for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

5. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard;

6. *Reaffirms also* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the administering Powers, in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

9. *Stresses* that the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned;

10. *Noting* the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

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B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I. *American Samoa*

Taking note of the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

Taking note with interest of the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in American Samoa provided by the Governor of American Samoa to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,[98]

Noting that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base and recent natural disasters,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory;

3. *Welcomes* the invitation extended by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

II. *Anguilla*

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993–1997,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

III. *Bermuda*

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting also the closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue its programmes for the socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of the military bases and installations of the United States of America in the Territory;

IV. *British Virgin Islands*

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993–1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

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[98] See A/AC.109/2121, para. 28.

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

V. *Cayman Islands*

Noting the constitutional review of 1992–1993, according to which the population of the Cayman Islands expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money laundering and related activities,

Noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

VI. *Guam*

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all reolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 52/77 A and B of 10 December 1997,

Recalling further the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Noting the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,[99]

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,[100]

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[99] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

1. *Requests* the administering Power to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination with a view to facilitating Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as endorsed by the people of Guam, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to continue the negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the people of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises, noting the special role of the Chamorran people in Guam's development;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

VII. *Montserrat*

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[101]

Taking note of the statement made by the Chief Minister of Montserrat on 22 May 1998 on the occasion of the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights,[102]

Noting that the last visiting mission took place in 1982,

Noting also the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat, and that general elections were held in the Territory in November 1996,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to continue to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII. *Pitcairn*

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

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[100] See A/AC.109/2121, para. 23.

[101] See A/AC.109/2089, para. 27.

[102] See A/AC.109/SR.1486.

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

IX. *St. Helena*

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Welcoming the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to examine and report on the current Constitution in the light of a request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production, and the continuing negotiations to allow access to Ascension Island by civilian charter flights,

Noting with concern the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Notes* that the administering Power has taken note of various statements made by members of the Legislative Council of St. Helena about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss them further with the people of St. Helena, and also notes that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recently sent a delegation to study the Constitution and its application with the Legislative Council;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory;

X. *Turks and Caicos Islands*

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Cabinet Minister as well as a member of the legislature from the opposition of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[103]

Noting the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Invites* the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

XI. *United States Virgin Islands*

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,[104]

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory held on 11 October 1993, that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States,

Noting the necessity of further diversifying the economy of the Territory,

Welcoming the conclusion of the discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power on the question of Water Island,

Noting the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

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[103] See A/AC.109/2089, para. 29.

[104] See A/AC.109/2121, para. 26.

Noting with satisfaction the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Further requests* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

78th plenary meeting
3 December 1998

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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53/169. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social cooperation, including seeking solutions to international economic, social and related problems,

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing concern over the serious risks of marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the globalization process, including in the finance and trade sectors, and the increasing vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy, resulting particularly from the volatility of short-term capital flows and the accentuation of income disparities within and among countries,

Mindful, in the process of trade liberalization, of the diminution of trade preferential margins for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, and of the need for countries to take measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to address that diminution with a view to offsetting it,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities, through increased trade and capital flows and advancement in technology, for the growth of the world economy, for development and for the improvement of living standards around the world,

Underlining the need to work on a wide range of reforms to create a strengthened international financial system,

Stressing the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy to allow them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Emphasizing that technical assistance is also vital in enabling developing countries to benefit from the international trading environment,

Underlining the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development,

Reiterating that the United Nations is in a unique position, as a universal forum, to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Emphasizing that the United Nations system has a key role in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in economic and development issues at the global level,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts, in particular of the least developed countries, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and also recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Recalling the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa,[1] which provides an important framework for promoting partnership for growth and development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Noting the special high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 18 April 1998, and the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its 1998 substantive session,[2]

Recalling the widely shared desire expressed during the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 17 and 18 September 1998, which constituted a renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to continue discussions with a view to developing a coherent and effective response to the opportunities and challenges being offered by globalization and interdependence,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[3] wherein he identified, *inter alia*, the obstacles to the full participation of the African economies in the globalization process,

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in providing guidance on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of recognizing the needs of developing countries, particularly the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of globalization, and urges the international community, including the World Trade Organization, to continue to grant more preferential treatment to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States;

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[1] *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, Midrand, Republic of South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.4), part one, sect. A.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

[3] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre to help developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to address their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade, policy, improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, in particular in electronic commerce;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

5. *Underlines* the need to continue to work to ensure the full participation of all the developing countries in the benefits of globalization and also the need to reduce their vulnerability to the negative impacts of globalization and interdependence;

6. *Emphasizes* that concerted efforts should be made, through enhanced cooperation and coordination among all the relevant forums and institutions, to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the benefits of globalization and interdependence for the developing countries;

7. *Stresses* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources;

8. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular foreign direct investment, market access, good governance, increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling of unsustainable debt burdens, including through debt conversion measures, flexibility in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in all African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

9. *Stresses* the need for continued and constructive dialogue in the appropriate forums among developed and developing countries on issues related to strengthening and reforming the international financial architecture;

10. *Recognizes* the urgency of working together in developing a global approach to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

11. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, in their special high-level meeting in 1999, also to address ways and means of optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, in particular for the developing countries;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with relevant organizations, in particular the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the regional commissions, an analytical report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, that examines the interrelated issues in order to facilitate better understanding of globalization and makes recommendations on, *inter alia*:

(*a*) The role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(*b*) Promoting coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits and limit the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence;

13. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/170. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98 of 20 December 1995, 51/167 of 16 December 1996 and 52/182 of 18 December 1997, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth, development and interrelated issues,

Welcoming the ministerial communiqué on the theme "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization", adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[4]

Reaffirming the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa,[5] which provides an important framework for promoting a partnership for growth and development,

Emphasizing that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the growth and development of developing countries, and emphasizing also that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for sustainable development,

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

[5] *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, Midrand, Republic of South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.4), part one, sect. A.

Taking note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-fifth session,[6]

Noting that the second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 May 1998,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

2. *Renews its commitment* to uphold and strengthen an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trade system, which contributes to the economic and social advancement of all countries and peoples by promoting the liberalization and expansion of trade, employment and stability and by providing a framework for the conduct of international trade relations;

3. *Deplores* any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trade by unilateral actions inconsistent with the multilateral trade rules and regulations, including those agreed upon in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

4. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and related issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, on the basis of the outcome of its ninth session, to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to invite the executive secretaries of the United Nations regional commissions to participate in the discussions of the Trade and Development Board, and encourages the continuation of such a practice in the future;

7. *Notes* the increasing importance and application of electronic commerce in international trade, and in this context welcomes the summit of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the theme "Partners for Development", held at Lyon, France, from 9 to 12 November 1998, and urges the Conference, in cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and, in this regard, also notes the needs of the economies in transition;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of continued trade liberalization in developed and developing countries, including in sectors of export interest to developing countries, through, *inter alia*:

(*a*) Substantial reductions of tariffs, the rolling back of tariff peaks and the removal of tariff escalation;

(*b*) The elimination of trade-distorting policies, protectionist practices and non-tariff barriers in international trade relations;

(*c*) Ensuring that resort to anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, and phytosanitary and technical standards is subjected to effective multilateral surveillance so that such measures respect and are consistent with multilateral rules and obligations and are not used for protectionist purposes;

(*d*) The improvement and renewal, by preference-giving countries, of their Generalized System of Preferences schemes with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, into the international trading system and of finding ways and means to ensure more effective utilization of the Generalized System of Preferences schemes, and in this context reiterates its original principles, namely, non-discrimination, universality, burden-sharing and non-reciprocity;

9. *Also reiterates* that it is an ethical imperative for the international community to arrest and reverse the marginalization of the least developed countries and to promote their expeditious integration into the world economy and, as declared in the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[4] that all countries should work together towards further enhanced market access for exports from least developed countries within the context of supporting their own efforts at capacity-building; welcomes the initiatives taken by the World Trade Organization in cooperation with other organizations in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted at its first Ministerial Conference, held at Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996, including through effective follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development, held at Geneva on 27 and 28 October 1997; recognizes that the full implementation of the Plan of Action requires further progress towards duty-free imports from the least developed countries; and invites the relevant international organizations to provide enhanced technical assistance to help strengthen the supply capacity of the least developed countries so as to help them to take the fullest possible advantage of trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to facilitate the integration of the countries of Africa into the world economy, and in this context welcomes the action-oriented agenda for the development of Africa contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[7] and endorses

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[6] A/53/15 (Part IV). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[7] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

peace and sustainable development in Africa,[7] and endorses the call contained in the ministerial communiqué for continued efforts to enhance market access for products of export interest to African economies and support for their efforts at diversification and building of supply capacity, and in this context requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[8] taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session;[9]

11. *Also stresses* the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States and of landlocked developing States and to recognize that developing countries that provide transit services need adequate support in maintaining and improving their transit infrastructure;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective application by all members of the World Trade Organization of all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations,[10] taking into account the specific interests of developing countries so as to maximize economic growth and developmental benefits for all, and the need for the effective implementation of the special provisions in the multilateral trade agreements and related ministerial decisions in favour of developing countries, including special and preferential treatment, and urges Governments and concerned international organizations to apply effectively the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;[10]

13. *Also reiterates* that it is important that the momentum towards increased trade liberalization, particularly as regards products of interest to developing countries, be maintained and given attention in the work leading up to the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and that further liberalization be sufficiently broad-based to respond to the range of interests and concerns of all members, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, and in this regard invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries for their effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and in their formulation of a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

14. *Welcomes* the launching of the substantive preparatory process for the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held at Bangkok in 2000, by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session, with a view to the finalization of the agenda of the Conference by the Board at its nineteenth executive session, in December 1998, and considers that the tenth session of the Conference will provide an important opportunity for the United Nations system and the international community to make a collective reflection on development;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strengthening of, and the attainment of greater universality by, the international trading system and of accelerating the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and also emphasizes the necessity for Governments members of the World Trade Organization and relevant international organizations to assist non-members of the World Trade Organization so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious and transparent manner, on the basis of World Trade Organization rights and obligations, and for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization to provide technical assistance, within their mandates, that will contribute to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system;

16. *Stresses* the need for improved measures to address the effects of the financial crisis on the international trading system and the development prospects of developing countries and the countries affected by the crisis, emphasizing that keeping all markets open and maintaining continued growth in world trade are key elements in overcoming the crisis, and in this context rejects the use of any protectionist measures; at a broader level, there is a need for greater coherence between the development objectives agreed to by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial system, and in this context calls for close cooperation between the organizations of the United Nations system and the multilateral trade and financial institutions;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of open regional economic integration in the creation of new opportunities for expanding trade and investment, stresses the importance of those initiatives being in conformity with World Trade Organization rules, where applicable, and, bearing in mind the primacy of the multilateral trading system, affirms that regional trade agreements should be outward-oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system;

18. *Reiterates* that, in line with Agenda 21[11] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[12] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development and that, in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact are not used for protectionist purposes, and encourages

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[7] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[8] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[9] A/53/15 (Part IV), chap. I, sect. E, agreed conclusions 454 (XLV). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[10] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994–7).

[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] Ibid., annex I.

the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on trade, environment and development;

19. *Strongly underlines* the need for technical assistance to enable developing countries to take the fullest possible advantage of the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization, based on multilaterally agreed rules and regulations, and in this context emphasizes the importance of enabling the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in this area, and welcomes its collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the Bank for International Settlements and other relevant organizations in the course of its work;

20. *Emphasizes* that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element with regard to the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, developments in the multilateral trading system and the implementation of the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/171. Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/169 and 48/170 of 21 December 1993, 49/102 of 19 December 1994 and 51/168 of 16 December 1996,

Recalling also the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[13] and other relevant international legal instruments,

Recognizing that the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked States in Central Asia, seeking to enter world markets through the establishment of a multicountry transit system, are impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea as well as by remoteness and isolation from world markets and lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector in their transit developing neighbours due to their economic problems,

Reaffirming that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests,

Supporting the current efforts being undertaken by the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, through relevant multilateral, bilateral and regional arrangements, to address issues regarding the development of a viable transit infrastructure in the region,

Taking note of the report prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit neighbours,[14] and considering that the problems of transit transport facing the Central Asian region need to be seen against the backdrop of economic changes and accompanying challenges, including especially the impact of those changes on the international and intraregional trade of the countries concerned,

Recognizing that, to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that address both the problems inherent in the use of existing transit routes and those associated with the early development and smooth functioning of new alternative routes, and welcoming, in this context, further cooperation of landlocked States with all interested countries,

Noting that there have been a number of important developments at the subregional and regional levels, including the signing of a transit transport framework agreement among States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization at Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 9 May 1998, the signing on 26 March 1998 by the heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Tashkent Declaration on the United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia,[15] the implementation of the expanded Transport Corridor-Europe-Caucasus-Asia programme and the signing of the Baku Declaration[16] on 8 September 1998,

Emphasizing once again the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improving the efficiency of the transit transport system in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Governments concerned, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic

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[13] TD/B/42(1)/11–TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

[14] A/53/331, annex.

[15] A/53/96, annex II.

[16] A/C.2/53/4, annex.

Commission for Europe and relevant regional and international organizations and in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to continue elaborating a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

3. *Also invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates and current resources, as well as with other relevant international organizations, to provide technical assistance and advisory services to the newly independent landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, taking into account the relevant transit transport agreements;

4. *Invites* donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions, within their mandates, to continue to provide the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transit environment, including construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities and improved communications;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue studying, within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution, possible ways of promoting more cooperative arrangements between landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, and to encourage a more active supportive role on the part of the donor community;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/172. The financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/180 of 18 December 1997 on global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries, as well as the ministerial communiqué on market access, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[17]

Also reaffirming that global financial flows, in the context of financial globalization, have presented Governments, the multilateral financial institutions and the international community at large with new challenges and opportunities, and that they should constitute a very important element of the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Mindful of the vital role of financing for fostering the economic development of the developing countries, and emphasizing the importance of adequate financial resources for development,

Recognizing the benefits of the increasing integration of global markets and the important role of capital flows for promoting economic development and social welfare,

Deeply concerned at the overall declining trend in official development assistance, which is a significant external resource for financing development and an important source of support to the efforts of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to create an enabling environment for eradicating poverty and tackling basic social needs, especially where private capital flows may either be inadequate or unavailable,

Regretting that the current crisis in financial markets, characterized, *inter alia*, by massive and sudden outflows of capital from the affected countries and the sharp decline in private capital flows to developing countries and some economies in transition, has resulted in higher interest rate spreads, leading to a significant slowdown in economic activity,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the countries affected by the crisis to restore financial and economic stability, ease the social impact of the crisis and put their economies on the path to recovery, and in this context also welcoming the continued support of the international community, including the multilateral financial institutions, to the affected countries,

Deeply concerned that the international financial crisis has acquired extremely worrying dimensions, posing a threat to world economic development, and that if it were allowed to continue financial turmoil could result in major setbacks to the global economy, in particular to the progress that most developing countries have achieved in the 1990s,

Expressing concern at the negative effects of the financial crisis on international trade, in particular the sharp reduction in commodity prices and its negative effects on the development prospects for developing countries and some economies in transition, and emphasizing that keeping all markets open, in accordance with multilateral trade rules, and maintaining continued growth in world trade, are key elements in overcoming the crisis, and in this context rejecting the use of any protectionist measures,

Expressing concern that the financial crisis has also seriously affected the growth and development prospects of least developed countries,

Recognizing that the current crisis has exposed weaknesses in the international financial system and the urgent need to work on a wide range of reforms to create a strengthened international financial system with a view to enabling it to deal more effectively and in a timely manner with the new challenges of global financial integration,

Welcoming the convening of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions held in New York on 18 April 1998 and the convening of the meeting of the World Bank's "Exchange Programme" with a delegation of Ambassadors to the United

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[17] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

Nations, led by the President of the Economic and Social Council, held at Washington, D.C., on 27 and 28 May 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Global financial flows and their impact on developing countries: addressing the matter of volatility",[18] the *World Economic and Social Survey, 1998*[19] and the *Trade and Development Report, 1998*;[20]

2. *Stresses* the importance of having an enabling international environment and a strong cooperative effort by all countries and institutions to support crisis-hit countries and to prevent further contagion, and calls on all countries, particularly major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth, to adopt and pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promote a favourable external economic environment for the recovery of the affected countries and countries in a critical economic situation;

3. *Also stresses* the importance at the national level of sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and regulatory frameworks, especially the regulatory and supervisory systems of the domestic financial and banking sectors;

4. *Emphasizes* that the international financial institutions, in providing policy advice and prescriptions in the context of adjustment and financial crisis programmes, should ensure that they are sensitive to the specific circumstances of the concerned countries and to the special needs of developing countries and work towards the best possible outcome for the economies concerned;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of accelerating the growth and development prospects of least developed countries, which remain the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community, and calls upon development partners to carry on their efforts to increase official development assistance and their efforts aimed at strengthened debt relief, improved market access and enhanced balance-of-payments support;

6. *Stresses* the need for continued and constructive dialogue in the appropriate forums among developed and developing countries on issues related to strengthening and reforming the international financial architecture;

7. *Also stresses* the need for the international community to continue to work together in formulating a global approach towards financial crisis, and in this regard welcomes the efforts undertaken to strengthen further the cooperation and collaboration among the United Nations system, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international economic institutions in the areas of common and complementary objectives;

8. *Further stresses* the importance of the open high-level dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, and invites the Secretary-General to support further the Economic and Social Council in the organization of the high-level dialogue in 1999, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

9. *Recognizes* the need to improve the capacities and modalities of the international financial institutions with regard to the prevention, management and resolution in a timely and effective manner of international financial crises;

10. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened collaboration between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in specific areas where collaboration is needed, such as the financial sector, while recognizing the specific mandates of the two institutions, and also stresses the need for the institutions dealing with financial crises to keep in mind the overall objective of facilitating long-term development;

11. *Stresses* the need to endow the International Monetary Fund with adequate resources to provide emergency financing to countries affected by financial crises as a result, among others, of the high volatility of international capital flows, and in this context also stresses the importance of sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities and regulatory frameworks;

12. *Also stresses* the need to strengthen international and national financial systems through a more effective national, regional and international surveillance of both the public and private sectors, based upon the improvement of the availability and transparency of information, as well as the strengthening of the role of the International Monetary Fund in this regard, and the collaboration of the World Bank with technical assistance and capacity-building in this matter;

13. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund and relevant international regulatory bodies to consider as quickly as possible additional regulatory and disclosure measures to ensure greater transparency of financial market participants, including international institutional investors, particularly of highly leveraged operations;

14. *Encourages* the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and other relevant forums to expedite the work relative to the greater involvement of the private sector in preventing and resolving financial crises;

15. *Emphasizes* that the opening of the capital account must be carried out in an orderly, gradual and well-sequenced manner, keeping its pace in line with the strengthening of the ability of countries to sustain its consequences, underscores the crucial importance in this regard of solid domestic financial systems and of an effective prudential framework, and invites the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and relevant international regulatory bodies to contribute to this process;

16. *Calls upon* the international community to pursue national and international efforts, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, to contribute to minimizing the excessive volatility of global financial flows and to distribute in a more equitable manner the costs of systemic adjustments between the public and private sectors;

17. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund to facilitate the dialogue among relevant actors to consider the possibility

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[18] A/53/398.

[19] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.C.1.

[20] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.D.6.

of establishing regulatory frameworks for short-term capital flows and trade in currencies;

18. *Recognizes* that a most important question that needs to be addressed by the international community in the process of globalization is the need to mobilize resources for such goals as poverty eradication, human resources development, and health and education;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of the World Bank to help Governments to address the social consequences of crises, including the strengthening of social safety nets for the most vulnerable;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within their respective existing mandates and in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions, to analyse the current trend in global financial flows and modalities to improve early warning, prevention and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises in a timely manner, taking a comprehensive and long-term perspective, while remaining responsive to the challenges of development and the protection of the most vulnerable countries and social groups;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/173. High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/179 of 18 December 1997,

Taking note of the views expressed by Governments, including those reflected in the notes by the Secretary-General of 24 March 1998[21] and 8 October 1998,[22] on the key elements that might be included in consideration of financing for development,

1. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 52/179 to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to undertake an in-depth examination of all inputs requested in the resolution, with a view to formulating a report containing recommendations on the form, scope and agenda of, *inter alia*, a summit, international conference, special session of the General Assembly or other appropriate high-level international intergovernmental forum on financing for development to further the global partnership for development, to be convened not later than the year 2001;

2. *Requests* the ad hoc working group to consider appropriate modalities that will ensure the completion of its work and the submission of specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session to serve as ex officio chairman of the ad hoc working group and to convene an organizational meeting of the ad hoc working group not later than January 1999 to decide on the modalities referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to develop arrangements for the effective direction and functioning of the ad hoc working group;

4. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in close consultation with Member States, to designate two vice-chairpersons for the ad hoc working group, preferably before the convening of its organizational meeting in January 1999, bearing in mind appropriate representation;

5. *Requests* the Bureau of the Second Committee at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize briefings or panel discussions on important topics or significant trends and events that may enrich the deliberations of the ad hoc working group;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/174. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992, 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 51/169 of 16 December 1996, and stressing the urgent need to ensure their full implementation,

Recognizing that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues and of the creation of employment, income and savings, as well as a driving force of investment and a contributor to growth and development,

Expressing deep concern about the negative effects of recent unfavourable weather conditions on the supply side of commodity-dependent countries and the effects of the financial crisis on the demand for commodities, as well as the continuing decline of commodity prices, which adversely affect the economic growth of commodity-dependent countries, especially in Africa,

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes and in attaining access to markets for their commodities,

Emphasizing the necessity for the developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, for a domestic industrial transformation of their commodity production with a view to enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings, thus promoting the sustainable economic growth of developing countries in their integration into the global economy,

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[21] A/52/840.

[22] A/53/470.

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects,[23]

1. *Notes* the need of the developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices in the face of instability and decline in real terms of the prices of many commodities;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities to continue to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and liberalization of the trade and export sectors and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

4. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification and liberalization efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, in a spirit of common purpose and efficiency, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

5. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts to reinforce mutual cooperation and assistance;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development, while continuing with diversification efforts, in developing countries, especially in commodity-dependent countries, and, in this respect, stresses that:

(*a*) International support for the efforts of developing countries towards the industrial transformation of their commodities is required to increase their export revenues and to improve their competitiveness with a view to facilitating their integration into the global economy;

(*b*) In the context of the process of trade liberalization, the use of trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff peaks, tariff escalations and non-tariff barriers, should be minimized as they have negative effects on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the required restructuring of their commodity sector and as they could also adversely impact liberalization measures undertaken by commodity-dependent developing countries;

(*c*) In the light of the process of multilateral trade liberalization, which has led to the diminution of differentials accorded by preferred trade regimes, there is a need to take measures, as appropriate and consistent with international obligations, to address that diminution, in particular by strengthening technical assistance to and by addressing supply-side constraints faced by commodity-dependent developing countries, in order to improve the competitiveness of their commodity sector and to overcome difficulties encountered in their diversification programmes;

(*d*) In line with Agenda 21[24] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[25] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development; in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes;

(*e*) Effective financial cooperation to facilitate the management by commodity-dependent countries of excessive fluctuations in commodity export earnings should be maintained and further pursued;

(*f*) Technical cooperation in the areas of transfer of new technologies in production processes and training for technical, managerial and commercial staff of developing countries is of paramount importance for quality improvements in the commodity sector;

(*g*) Expansion of South-South trade and investment in commodities enhances complementarities and offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(*h*) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. *Encourages* the Common Fund for Commodities, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies, to direct its commodity development programmes more towards commodity sector diversification projects, as well as to promote commodity market development in developing countries, with particular focus on the needs of least developed countries, and to explore effective ways and means of using the resources of the First Account of the Common Fund;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within its mandate, to provide assistance to developing countries in the financing of commodity diversification and to include issues related to commodities in the provision of analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries in their preparation for effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and in formulating a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider issues related to commodities in the preparation for its tenth session, to be held in Thailand in the year 2000;

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[23] A/53/319, annex.

[24] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[25] Ibid., annex I.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on world commodity trends and prospects;

11. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/175. Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[26] and the Agenda for Development,[27] as well as the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/164 of 16 December 1996 and 52/185 of 18 December 1997 on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries,

Reaffirming the urgent need for further implementation in an effective, equitable and development-oriented way of existing mechanisms for the treatment of the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries in order to help them to exit from the rescheduling process and unsustainable debt burdens, and, in this context, stressing the need to agree upon equitable burden-sharing among the international public creditor community,

Welcoming and emphasizing the importance of the efforts of debtor countries, despite the great social cost often involved, in pursuing economic reform, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes aimed at achieving stability, raising domestic savings and investments, attaining competitiveness to take advantage of market access opportunities where available, reducing inflation, improving economic efficiency and addressing the social aspects of development, including the eradication of poverty as well as the development of social safety nets for the vulnerable and poorer strata of their populations, and encouraging them to continue in these efforts,

Noting that the ongoing international financial crisis is adding further burdens to the external debt problems of many developing countries and that a number of developing countries have continued to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion, despite serious external and domestic financial constraints,

Noting also, in this context, the increasing significance of official development assistance as an external resource for many developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in the light of reduced private flows, and further that the overall declining trend in official development assistance is a cause for concern,

Stressing the need for a full, swift implementation of those initiatives, which will further assist developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, especially in Africa, in their efforts to improve their debt situation, in view of their continued very high level of total debt stock and servicing burdens,

Noting the improvement in the debt situation of a number of countries and the contribution that the evolving debt strategy has made to this improvement, noting with appreciation the debt-relief measures taken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through the cancellation and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt, and welcoming the even more favourable debt-relief measures taken by the Paris Club on the basis of the Naples terms of December 1994 and, for the first time, on the basis of the Lyon terms,

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts and economic growth, and stressing the importance of alleviating the onerous debt and debt-service burdens connected with the various types of debt of many developing countries on the basis of an effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable approach and, where appropriate, addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a matter of priority,

Encouraging multilateral creditors to consider appropriate measures in the case of developing countries with exceptionally high levels of debt overhang,

Welcoming the decision of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to undertake a comprehensive review of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative as early as 1999,

Stressing the need for continuing global economic growth and the necessity for a continuing supportive international economic environment with regard to, *inter alia*, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access, trade practices, access to technology, exchange rates and international interest rates, and noting the continued need for resources for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the debt situation of the developing countries as of mid-1998;[28]

2. *Recognizes* that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries can contribute substantially to the strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in

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[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

[27] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[28] A/53/373.

accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

3. *Notes* that further progress, including swift implementation of innovative approaches and concrete measures, is essential for contributing to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

4. *Also notes*, while recognizing the benefits of liberalization of international capital flows, the adverse impact of the volatility of short-term capital flows on exchange rates, interest rates and the debt situation of developing countries, and stresses the need for coherence in implementing policies as well as capital accounts liberalization in an orderly, gradual and well-sequenced manner to keep pace with the strengthening of the ability of countries to sustain its consequences, in order to mitigate the adverse impact of such volatility;

5. *Urges* the international community to consider voluntary measures and mechanisms, involving private creditors and taking into account existing frameworks, that would allow debtor countries breathing space through, *inter alia*, mutually agreed temporary suspension of payments while maintaining their access to interim financing, and, in this regard, welcomes the willingness of the International Monetary Fund to consider providing financing to members in arrears on their debt payments to some private creditors;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need to endow the International Monetary Fund with adequate resources to provide emergency financing to countries affected by financial crises as a result, *inter alia*, of the high volatilities of international capital flows and that continue to pursue a programme of economic stabilization and reform;

7. *Also stresses* the need for the Bretton Woods institutions to consider fully, when providing emergency financing, the special economic situations of indebted developing countries affected by natural disasters;

8. *Welcomes* the decisions announced by various creditor countries to cancel, partially or totally, the official bilateral debt of the countries of Central America that were most adversely hit by hurricane Mitch, as well as the decisions by donor countries to help reduce debt owed to multilateral institutions, while recognizing the need to ensure that adequate resources are still directed towards relief and rehabilitation efforts, also welcomes the proposals to discuss at the Paris Club meeting, to be held on 7 December 1998, further debt relief for the concerned countries, and calls upon the international financial institutions to help those countries in their reconstruction efforts, *inter alia*, by lessening the debt-service burden and considering appropriate additional measures and undertaking the early consideration of Honduras and Nicaragua for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

9. *Stresses* the importance for developing countries of continuing their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development, so as to favour their exit from debt and debt-servicing problems, and also stresses the need for the international community to promote a conducive external environment through, *inter alia*, improved market access, stabilization of exchange rates, effective stewardship of international interest rates, increased resource flows, access to international financial markets, flow of financial resources and improved access to technology for the developing countries;

10. *Also stresses* that the evolving debt strategy must be accompanied by a favourable and supportive international economic environment, including the full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the Marrakesh ministerial decisions in favour of the least developed countries and the net food-importing developing countries;[29]

11. *Further stresses* the need for existing facilities to provide debt-relief measures through various debt conversion programmes, where possible, such as debt-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps, debt-for-child development swaps and other debt-for-development swaps, to be widely implemented so that the countries concerned may be assisted in their development efforts, as well as to support measures in favour of the most vulnerable segments of the societies of those countries and to develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects, in conformity with the priorities of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995;[30]

12. *Recognizes* the need for attaching higher priority to social aspects in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and the extension by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund of the original two-year period for countries to begin qualifying for assistance until the end of the year 2000, and stresses that the Initiative offers an important opportunity for the heavily indebted poor countries to reach a sustainable external debt position;

14. *Calls* for the speedy and determined extension of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative to more countries, and encourages all eligible countries to take policy measures needed to embark on the process as soon as possible so that all can be in process by the year 2000;

15. *Stresses* the need for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to address expeditiously the special needs of poor post-conflict countries in close cooperation with all relevant parts of the United Nations system, and, in this context, welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to add a degree of flexibility in its evaluation of track records of policy performance for countries receiving post-conflict assistance;

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[29] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[30] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

16. *Also stresses* the urgent need for effective mobilization of additional financial resources for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative from both bilateral and multilateral creditors without affecting the support required for other development activities of developing countries, and, in this regard, expresses its appreciation for contributions made by some bilateral donors to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund of the World Bank and the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility/Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund of the International Monetary Fund, urges other bilateral donors and invites other international financial institutions that have not yet finalized mechanisms for participation in the Initiative to do so as soon as possible, and calls upon bilateral and multilateral donors to contribute to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund to help the African Development Bank meet its share of Initiative costs;

17. *Calls upon* the industrialized countries that have not yet contributed to the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility/Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund to come forward immediately with their contributions;

18. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative flexibly, including shortening the interval between the decision and completion points, taking due account of the policy performance of the countries concerned, in a transparent manner and with the full involvement of the debtor countries;

19. *Also stresses* the importance of increased flexibility with regard to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative eligibility criteria, including continuously evaluating and actively monitoring the implications of the existing terms of the eligibility criteria so as to ensure sufficient coverage of heavily indebted poor countries, increased flexibility being, in this context, particularly important for known borderline cases and countries in post-conflict situations, in respect of, *inter alia*, avoiding delays in the establishment of a track record of economic performance caused by temporary setbacks due to external shocks, in order to help them to exit from the rescheduling process and from unsustainable debt burdens;

20. *Underlines* the importance of the transparency and involvement of debtor countries in any review and analysis that is conducted during the adjustment period;

21. *Welcomes* the implementation since 1994 by the Paris Club of the Naples terms, as well as the decision to go beyond the Naples terms to provide debt reduction for eligible countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted countries, and invites all other bilateral, multilateral and commercial creditors to make an appropriate and consistent contribution to the common objective of debt sustainability;

22. *Encourages* the international creditor community to consider appropriate measures in cases with a very high level of debt overhang, including, where appropriate, debt conversion measures for the low income countries in Africa, in particular the poorest among them, in order to make an appropriate and consistent contribution to the common objective of debt sustainability;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Boards of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that the comprehensive review of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative should be undertaken as early as 1999, encourages the review's inclusion of the consideration of debt sustainability criteria, as well as a comprehensive study of the impact of traditional debt-relief efforts and its examination of the relationship between debt relief and poverty reduction within the recipient country, and recognizes that the comprehensive review should consider the inputs of other relevant international organizations;

24. *Invites* creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to continue the initiatives and efforts to address both the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and the requests for continued mobilization of resources, including through the Debt-reduction Facility of the International Development Association, in order to help least developed countries reduce their commercial debt;

25. *Recognizes* the efforts of indebted developing countries in regard to fulfilling their commitments on debt servicing despite the high social cost incurred, and, in this regard, encourages private creditors and, in particular, commercial banks to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of middle-income developing countries, in particular those affected by the financial crisis;

26. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue to provide social safety nets to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in debtor countries, in particular low-income groups;

27. *Encourages* debtors and creditors to consider ways to ensure that future loans are used in such a way that they avoid having a negative impact on debt sustainability;

28. *Notes with concern* the continuing burden of debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income developing countries, including in particular those in Africa, and encourages creditors, including multilateral financial institutions, commercial banks and bilateral creditors, to continue to support those countries in addressing these obligations effectively;

29. *Expresses strong support* for the continuation of Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility operations, and, in this regard, emphasizes the urgency of securing the Facility's funding and sustenance;

30. *Stresses* the need to finalize negotiations as soon as possible for an adequate twelfth replenishment of the International Development Association to a level commensurate with the needs of concessional funding by the poorest developing countries;

31. *Reaffirms* the Mid-term Global Review of Progress towards the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[31] in particular the appropriate actions in favour of those countries concerning their official bilateral, commercial and multilateral debt;

32. *Stresses* the need for new financial flows to debtor developing countries from all sources, in addition to debt-relief

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[31] Resolution 50/103, annex.

measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, and urges creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, particularly to the least developed countries, in order to support the implementation of economic reforms and stabilization and structural adjustment programmes by the developing countries that will enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and attract new investment and to assist them in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and the eradication of poverty;

33. *Also stresses* the importance of providing adequate resources for debt relief in the light of the adverse effects of the current international financial crisis on the mobilization of both domestic and external resources for the development of the least developed countries and Africa, and welcomes unilateral debt relief measures from creditor countries on top of the multilaterally agreed debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, bearing in mind that such unilateral actions strengthen the impact of the Initiative as a credible exit solution;

34. *Further stresses* the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries in debt management, and calls upon the international community to support their efforts towards that end;

35. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since the beginning of the 1990s on development related to the question of the external debt problem of developing countries;

36. *Notes* the various proposals contained in the *Trade and Development Report, 1998*,[32] concerning the issue of the external debt of African countries, and requests the Secretary-General to report pertinent developments relating thereto to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/176. Action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3514 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it, *inter alia*, condemned all corrupt practices, including bribery, in international commercial transactions, reaffirmed the right of any State to adopt legislation and to investigate and take appropriate legal action, in accordance with its national laws and regulations, against such corrupt practices, and called upon all Governments to cooperate to prevent corrupt practices, including bribery,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Disturbed by the bribery of public officials by individuals and enterprises of other States in relation to international commercial transactions,

Recalling the further work carried out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on elaborating the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials[33] and a code of conduct on transnational corporations,[34] consideration of which helped call attention to and raise international awareness of the adverse consequences of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

Taking note of the Rules of Conduct to Combat Extortion and Bribery in International Business Transactions of the International Chamber of Commerce,

Recalling its resolution 51/191 of 16 December 1996, by which it adopted the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, and its resolution 52/87 of 12 December 1997, by which it called for further measures to implement the Declaration,

1. *Welcomes* recent multilateral initiatives to combat corruption including, *inter alia*, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption,[35] adopted by the Organization of American States, the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption,[36] the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime,[37] and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of member States of the European Union;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Promotion and maintenance of the rule of law: action against corruption and bribery";[38]

3. *Commends* the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in combating corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, including the convening of an open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

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[32] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.D.6.

[33] Resolution 51/59, annex.

[34] E/1991/31/Add.1.

[35] See E/1996/99.

[36] See E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, chap. I.

[37] See E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, chap. I.

[38] A/53/384.

4. *Calls upon* Member States to take all possible measures to further the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions[39] and relevant international declarations and to ratify, where appropriate, existing instruments against corruption;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and agreed work programmes, to assist Member States, at their request, in implementing national programmes to strengthen accountability and transparency and in implementing relevant conventions, declarations and instruments to combat corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, and, in that context, welcomes the valuable work done by the United Nations Development Programme in the field of governance;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on measures taken by Member States and competent international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to implement the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/177. Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, 49/108 of 19 December 1994 and 51/170 of 16 December 1996 on industrial development cooperation,

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twenty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 1998, on the relevance of industrialization for development and the importance of international cooperation to support the developing countries in this field,[40]

Recognizing the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,[41]

1. *Reaffirms* that industrialization is a key element in the promotion of the sustainable development of developing countries, as well as in the creation of productive employment, the eradication of poverty and facilitating social integration, including the integration of women into the development process;

2. *Stresses* the importance of domestic industrial transformation in developing countries to increase the value added of their export earnings, so that they may benefit fully from the process of globalization and trade liberalization;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Also emphasizes* the importance of a favourable international and national environment for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and implement development policies and strategies that promote, within a framework of transparent and accountable industrialization policies, *inter alia*, enterprise development, foreign direct investment, technological adaptation and innovation, expanded access to markets and the effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to enhance an environment attractive to investment so as to augment and supplement domestic resources for the expansion, diversification and modernization of their industrial productive capacity in the context of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory, transparent, multilateral and rule-based international trading system;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of technology transfer to the developing countries as an effective means of international cooperation in the field of industrial development;

6. *Recognizes* the continuing use of official development assistance also for industrial development in the developing countries, and calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance, for developing countries, of financing for industrial development, including market-based mechanisms and instruments as well as innovative funding modalities, such as co-financing schemes and trust funds, debt-equity swaps and, as appropriate, other debt relief measures and official development assistance specifically designed to strengthen the industrial capacities of developing countries through, *inter alia,* the facilitation of private capital flows, and, in this regard, requests relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the context of their strategic partnership, to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to mobilize resources for industrial development, especially by means of investment promotion activities, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the encouragement of practices to promote employment in industries and various forms of business partnerships, such as industrial joint venture schemes, enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and venture capital funds for industrial development;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries, calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue carrying out its central

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[39] Resolution 51/191, annex.

[40] A/53/466, annex.

[41] See A/53/254.

coordinating role within the United Nations system in that respect, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system at both the headquarters and the field levels by, *inter alia,* actively participating in the resident coordinator system, so as to enhance the effectiveness, relevance and development impact of such support;

9. *Calls upon* the international community and the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to support the efforts of the developing countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves with respect to, among other things, trade in manufactured products, industrial investments and business partnerships, and industrial technology and scientific exchanges;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to continue undertaking in-depth assessment, analysis and dissemination of best practices in the area of industrial policies and strategies and of lessons learned in industrial development, taking into account the financial crisis and the impact of globalization on the industrial structure of the developing countries, so as to support and boost South-South cooperation by providing practical insights and ideas for international industrial development cooperation and for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

11. *Welcomes* the promising structural transformation and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as well as its new approach in providing comprehensive packages of integrated services to its member States and the strengthening of its field representation, and requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to accord priority to the needs of the least developed countries and countries in the African region;

12. *Also welcomes* the focus of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization both on the strengthening of industrial capacities and on cleaner and sustainable industrial development in the context of its new programme reorientation, as well as its cooperation with the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/178. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993, 49/92 of 19 December 1994 and 51/173 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, and the Agenda for Development,[42]

Recalling also the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[43] on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining years of the 1990s, in close collaboration with, *inter alia*, efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[44] and its implementing arm, the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;[45]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other relevant international organizations, to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session an analytical report containing a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and of the implementation of the Strategy, including the progress made and the constraints encountered therein;

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[42] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[43] A/53/301.

[44] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[45] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3–14 September 1990* (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Sustainable development and international cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/179. Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/187 of 22 December 1992, 48/181 of 21 December 1993, 49/106 of 19 December 1994 and 51/175 of 16 December 1996,

Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of thecountries with economies in transition into the world economy,

Noting the progress made in these countries in achieving macroeconomic stabilization in the course of structural reforms, which require more active investment policies,

Noting also the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,

Noting with satisfaction that some countries with economies in transition that are more advanced in reforming their economies have been more capable of maintaining their internal and external financial stability while facing present global financial turmoils,

Recognizing the need to ensure favourable conditions for market access of exports from these countries, in accordance with multilateral trade agreements,

Expressing concern that the economies in transition have become more vulnerable to and have been adversely affected by volatile fluctuations of short-term capital flows,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[46]

2. *Welcomes* the measures undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement General Assembly resolutions on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

3. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations multilateral and regional institutions, to continue to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and technical assistance to the Governments of the countries with economies in transition in strengthening the social and political framework for economic and market reforms, thereby creating, in particular, an enabling environment for foreign investment, and in the early identification of nascent crises in order to ensure their economic and financial stability;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/180. Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 52/192 of 18 December 1997 on the follow-up to the Conference and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Also recalling that, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[47]

Further recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which the Conference recommended that the General Assembly consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which were to be decided on at its fifty-third session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[48] containing proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[48] concerning the modalities for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Decides* that the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of

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[46] A/53/336.

[47] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[48] A/53/267.

the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be held in June 2001 for a period of three working days;

3. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[49] and the Habitat Agenda[47] and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

4. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

5. *Also decides* that the Commission on Human Settlements, which is currently scheduled at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions to focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact, should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session;

6. *Further decides* that the Commission, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow full participation of all States;

7. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of local authorities, other Habitat Agenda partners and relevant actors of civil society, in particular the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Habitat II Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

8. *Invites* Governments to play an active role in the preparatory process, *inter alia,* through an intensified exchange of experiences, and welcomes the proposals received so far from Singapore to hold an international conference on model cities, from 19 to 21 April 1999, and from Germany to hold an international conference, entitled "Urban 21", in 2000;

9. *Invites* the Commission on Human Settlements, serving as the preparatory committee, to meet for two working days back-to-back with its forthcoming seventeenth session in order, *inter alia*, to elect its officers, adopt appropriate rules of procedure and consider the organization of work for its first substantive session, to be held at Nairobi for five working days in May 2000, and invites the preparatory committee, at its first substantive session, to consider the modalities, duration, date and agenda for the second substantive session, to be held in 2001;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote its coordination segment in 2000 to human settlements issues and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

11. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council actively to promote and coordinate the role of the regional commissions in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the regional and subregional levels;

12. *Invites* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening high-level meetings to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Conference and to report the results of their review to the Economic and Social Council;

13. *Requests* other relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the funds and programmes, consistent with their respective mandates, to contribute, as appropriate, to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to send representatives to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the special session of the General Assembly in June 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/181. Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996 and 52/186 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also the adoption of the Agenda for Development[50] and the relevant provisions on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to follow up on the Agenda effectively,

Expressing satisfaction with the holding on 17 and 18 September 1998 of the first high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, including the use of panels which were not part of the formal proceedings and round-table discussions which promoted interactive dialogue,

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[49] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[50] See resolution 51/240.

1. *Reaffirms* the continuing need to strengthen constructive dialogue and genuine partnership in order to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

2. *Stresses* that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving development, as well as for improving the international economic environment so that it is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations system should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* to hold biennially a renewal of the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to provide impetus for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development;

4. *Also decides* that, building on the experience of the high-level dialogue held on 17 and 18 September 1998, the theme and the modalities of the second high-level dialogue will be decided through the intergovernmental process at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental organizations, to propose themes for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development for the second high-level dialogue for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the appropriate item, the sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/182. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2001,

1. *Welcomes and accepts* the generous offer of the European Union to host the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001;

2. *Designates* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and requests him to make all necessary preparations for the Conference;

3. *Decides* to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001 for a duration of seven days, at a venue and time to be determined by the Secretary-General of the Conference in consultation with the European Union;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize the intergovernmental preparatory committee (in two parts) and the three expert-level preparatory meetings referred to in paragraph 1 (*b*) of resolution 52/187;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant organizations and agencies, to organize well-focused sectoral and thematic or, where appropriate, country-specific round-table meetings during the Conference to contribute to the work of the Conference;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to link the forthcoming round-table and consultative group meetings to the preparatory process of the Conference, and to ensure that they make substantive contributions to the Conference;

7. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement in the preparations for the Conference of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene an inter-agency meeting to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant institutions, for the purpose of preparations for and follow-up to the Conference;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process and the Conference;

10. *Decides* to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings and the Conference itself through the use of extrabudgetary resources and, should those resources prove to be insufficient, to consider all other options;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, its objectives and its significance;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/183. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994, 50/124 of 20 December 1995, 51/176 of 16 December 1996 and 52/188 of 18 December 1997 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[51]

Noting that, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 52/188, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session for a duration of three days, from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/8 of 23 July 1998 on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,[52]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[52]

2. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

3. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in sending representatives to the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, which is to serve as the preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly, and to the special session of the Assembly from 30 June to 2 July 1999 on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* that the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow the full participation of all States;

6. *Invites* all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute, as appropriate, to the special session as well as to its preparation;

7. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the special session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/184. Cultural development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996 and 52/197 of 18 December 1997 on cultural development,

Noting the fact that public opinion throughout the world as well as Governments and non-governmental organizations have become much more sensitive to the need for better integration of the cultural dimension into the entire development process, as a result of the World Decade for Cultural Development[53] and the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development,

Acknowledging with satisfaction the active participation of Member States, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in the implementation of projects of national, regional and interregional scope aiming at the promotion of the objectives of the Decade and its follow-up, and in the work of the World Commission,

Taking note of the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, held at Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[54]

2. *Invites* all States, intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations:

(*a*) To implement the recommendations of the Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development[55] adopted by the

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[51] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[52] A/53/407.

[53] See resolution 41/187.

[54] A/53/321.

[55] Ibid., annex, appendix.

Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development;

(*b*) To cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the purpose of ensuring effective follow-up to the Action Plan;

(*c*) To intensify their efforts to integrate cultural factors into their development programmes and projects so as to ensure sustainable development that fully respects cultural diversity, taking into account their cultural values and identity;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures and the need to apply the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/185. International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,[56]

Expressing its deepest concern about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation on most of the regions of the world, especially during the period 1997–1998, which scientists have recognized as the period in which the El Niño/Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

Noting the progress made in the understanding of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, and noting also that a continued increase in the collection and exchange of data and information could assist in the modelling and prediction of the recurrence of this natural phenomenon,

Noting further that a phenomenon opposite to the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, can, according to scientific predictions, occur in and affect several regions of the world and that international cooperation could be needed in order to reduce its impact,

Stressing that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, technical cooperation and capacity-building, including data-collection, monitoring and early warning systems, at all levels,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General,[56] and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the countries affected in their efforts to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the outcome of the International Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters convened, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, at Potsdam, Germany, from 7 to 11 September 1998;

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 52/200;

5. *Decides* that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate agenda items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council and at the special session of the General Assembly for the in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[57]

6. *Also decides* to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of its resolution 52/200;

7. *Calls* for the continued and full implementation of its resolution 52/200;

8. *Welcomes* the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, encompassing scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system can deal with natural disaster reduction after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999, taking into account the lessons learned and making early warning a key element for future natural disaster reduction strategies;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the

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[56] A/53/487.

[57] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/186. International institutional arrangements related to environment and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[58] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

Recalling also its decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997 on progress in the implementation of conventions relating to sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of undertaking the review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development,[59]

Emphasizing that policy decisions under the conventions are taken by their respective Conferences of the Parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of those conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[60] the Convention on Biological Diversity[61] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa[62] to examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, identifying actions undertaken to implement part IV.A, in particular paragraph 119, of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[58] as well as the areas requiring further consideration and work, taking into account the roles of relevant organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as stated in part IV of the Programme.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/187. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,[63] and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[64]

Further recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[65] adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session,[66]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session and the decisions contained therein;[66]

2. *Recognizes*, in particular, the Governing Council decision on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,[67] including the areas of concentration of the activities of the Programme as proposed by the Executive Director in keeping with the spirit of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[65] as well as other priority areas of the Programme, as established by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, at Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 11 September 1998, of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent

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[58] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[59] A/53/477.

[60] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[61] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[62] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[63] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[64] Resolution S–19/2, annex.

[65] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[66] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/53/25).

[67] Ibid., annex I, decision SS.V/2.

Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and takes note of the fact that the functions of the secretariat of the Convention are jointly performed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme as an interim arrangement pending the final decision to be taken by the parties to the Convention on the location of the secretariat;

4. *Also welcomes* the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, which took place at Montreal, Canada, from 29 June to 3 July 1998, and further welcomes the positive role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental management of chemicals and especially the efforts undertaken by the Programme, as the secretariat of the convention, for the negotiations on a convention on persistent organic pollutants;

5. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

6. *Welcomes* the Governing Council decision,[68] as well as the decisions taken by the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility at its meeting held at New Delhi from 1 to 3 April 1998 and by the Global Environment Facility Council at its meeting held in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 16 October 1998, regarding the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility, and also welcomes the collaboration with the Facility on freshwater resources, as in the global international water assessment, and on activities aimed at combating land degradation as they relate to the focal areas of the Facility;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the ongoing reform of the Programme, and recognizes, as stated in the Nairobi Declaration, that, in order to operationalize its mandate, a revitalized Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources, and in this regard also recognizes the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the ability of the Programme to attract funding;

8. *Also encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify his efforts to mobilize additional financial resources from other donor sources, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration and subject to the agreement of the Governing Council.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/188. Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21[69] is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[70] adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a statement of commitment to Agenda 21 and the goals of sustainable development, an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002,

Recognizing also that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are needed in the pursuit of sustainable development and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continuing need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased,

Noting with concern that, during the assessment and review of progress made at its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly concluded that although some progress had been made, especially at the local level, the overall trends with respect to the global environment had not improved, and emphasizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is now more urgent than ever,

Noting the convening of the first meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility at New Delhi from 1 to 3 April 1998 and the conclusion of the negotiations on the second replenishment of the Facility,

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[68] Ibid., decision SS.V/6.

[69] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[70] Resolution S–19/2, annex.

Noting also that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be carried out by the General Assembly in 2002,

1. *Stresses* the need to accelerate the full implementation of Agenda 21[69] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;[70]

2. *Recognizes* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, within its mandate as specified in General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, will continue to provide the central forum for reviewing progress and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or as a result of it, for conducting a high-level policy debate aimed at consensus-building on sustainable development and for catalyzing action and long-term commitment on sustainable development at all levels;

3. *Calls upon* the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to undertake these tasks in complementing and providing interlinkages to the work of other United Nations organs, organizations and bodies active in the field of sustainable development, to play its role in assessing the challenges of globalization as they relate to sustainable development and to perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and with related organizations and institutions, including making recommendations, within its mandate, to the Council, bearing in mind the interrelated outcomes of recent United Nations conferences;

4. *Emphasizes* that the achievement of more substantive results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require concerted efforts at all levels, including by Governments, calls upon all countries to fulfil their commitments to Agenda 21, and in this context also calls upon developed countries to fulfil the commitments they have undertaken with respect to financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

5. *Underscores* the importance of the continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at future sessions, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, an analytical report on the measures taken within the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including identification of constraints and recommendations on how to address those constraints;

6. *Stresses* the importance of high-quality preparations for the forthcoming ten-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session a report on possible ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the review;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/189. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and 52/202 of 18 December 1997,

Reaffirming the outcome of its nineteenth special session, held from 23 to 28 June 1997, specifically the adoption of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[71] and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted at its fifth[72] and sixth[73] sessions, held from 7 to 25 April 1997, and on 22 December 1997 and from 20 April to 1 May 1998, respectively,

Noting the importance of the decision taken at its nineteenth special session[74] to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[75]

Reaffirming its decision to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the special session and in the preparatory meetings therefor, in the capacity of observers,

Recognizing that small island developing States are vulnerable and face constraints in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Noting that implementation of the Programme of Action has been carried out primarily at the national and regional levels, and commending efforts by small island developing States in this regard,

Noting also that the considerable efforts being made at the national and regional levels need to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

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[71] Ibid.

[72] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9* (E/1997/29).

[73] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[74] Resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 71.

[75] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[76] on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States implemented, under implementation or envisaged for the period 1999–2003 by bilateral donors, United Nations organizations and regional and non-United Nations international organizations, and welcomes the action taken by small island developing States and the international donor community in implementing plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[77] on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, urges that the progress made in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States be continued, and encourages all the relevant organizations engaged in the process of refining the vulnerability index to work collaboratively;

3. *Welcomes* the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, with respect to the donors conference to be held from 24 to 26 February 1999 between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and urges the parties concerned to facilitate project preparation and development;

4. *Encourages* all small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors to participate in the donors conference as a means of pursuing the development objectives of small island developing States;

5. *Welcomes* the actions taken by Governments, regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

6. *Urges* small island developing States to continue preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly in September 1999 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and urges the international community, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to assist in this regard;

7. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of regional economic commissions in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference;

8. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Global Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the special session and in the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the preparatory body for the special session, invites Governments to make timely and voluntary contributions for that purpose to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to assist small island developing States by applying the modalities for such assistance used for their participation in the Global Conference;

10. *Reiterates* the urgency of international community support of adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threat of sea-level rise experienced as a consequence of climate change;

11. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, and invites it, in accordance with the relevant decisions of its Council and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[78] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[79] to support further the objectives of the Programme of Action;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the existing mechanism, and to the General Assembly at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a report on the donors conference;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and the recommendations emanating from the special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

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[76] A/53/358.

[77] A/53/65–E/1998/5.

[78] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[79] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

53/190. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/201 of 18 December 1997 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[80]

Recalling further Agenda 21,[81] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[82]

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83] relating to intellectual property rights and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,[84]

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Colombia to host the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place at Cartagena de Indias from 15 to 19 February and on 22 and 23 February 1999, respectively,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the result of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Noting the importance of decision IV/6, in particular paragraph 11 thereof, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83]

1. *Welcomes* the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998;[83]

2. *Also welcomes* decision IV/16, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83] on the adoption of the programmes of work and the thematic approach adopted to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analysis to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on farmers and local communities;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the adoption of a protocol on biosafety at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter;

5. *Welcomes* decision IV/15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83] in which it stressed the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasized that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

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[80] Ibid.

[81] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[82] A/53/451, annex.

[83] See UNEP/CBD/COP/4/27, annex.

[84] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994–7).

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Welcomes* decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83] in which it decided to establish a panel of experts to implement the terms outlined in the decision;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular article 8, and the need to mobilize national and international support for such national actions;

11. *Welcomes* decision IV/16, adopted by of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[83] in which it decided to include an item entitled "Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitat or species" in the agenda of its sixth meeting;

12. *Recognizes* the utility of information exchange, and encourages the development of biodiversity information networks at the national, regional and international levels;

13. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies[85] and the Convention secretariat;

15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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53/191. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[86]

Reiterating its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies[87] envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held at Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997,[88]

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session,[89]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[90] on the implementation of resolution 52/198, submitted in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 22 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,[91]

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[85] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992, articles 23.4 (g) and 25.

[86] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[87] As defined in accordance with articles 22, paragraph 2 (c), and 24 of the Convention.

[88] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 4/COP.1.

[89] See ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

[90] A/53/516.

[91] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Second Committee*, 22nd meeting, and corrigendum.

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at Dakar, from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Also calls upon* all countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. *Notes* that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany signed a headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998,[92] which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. *Invites* the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

6. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt start to its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on or before 1 January of each year, starting in 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[93] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some States parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions in support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, to be established by 1 January 1999 in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[94]

11. *Also calls upon* developing countries that are parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of the contributions of non-governmental organizations;

12. *Further calls upon* the international community, in particular the developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the process of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session to facilitate and launch the process of elaborating and negotiating an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/192. Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, taking into account the views of Member States, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/42 of 26 July 1996 and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have an important role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

Also stressing, in that context, the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United

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[92] ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

[93] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, para. 14.

[94] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7–11.

Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

Further stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Noting, in this context, the activities of United Nations funds and programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to recipient countries, in response to their national economic and social needs and priorities, including poverty eradication and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development, for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and stressing the need for those activities to be undertaken at the request of interested recipient Governments strictly within the respective mandates of United Nations funds and programmes, which should receive increased contributions from donor countries,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Emphasizing that developing countries are responsible for their development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[95]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199, 50/120 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B, and stresses the need to implement fully, based on lessons learned, all the elements of these resolutions in a coherent and timely manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

4. *Notes* the efforts made in order to rationalize and to improve the function and impact of United Nations funds and programmes;

I

A. *Reform of United Nations operational activities*

5. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the mandates, mission statements and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the complementarity and impact of their work;

6. *Also stresses* that, in the context of the reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

B. *Funding for United Nations operational activities*

7. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has already been achieved on the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of that overall change process, any increase in core resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis;

8. *Expresses serious concern* at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

10. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, *inter alia*, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of resolution 52/12 B;

11. *Stresses* the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps that have been taken towards that end;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

13. *Urges* developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official

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[95] A/53/226 and Add.1–4.

development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

14. *Stresses* that other countries that are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation;

15. *Notes* the importance of non-core resources, including cost-sharing, trust funds and non-traditional sources of financing, as a mechanism to enhance the capacity and to supplement the means of operational activities for development;

16. *Notes* the discussions on funding strategies in the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, including, *inter alia*, the decisions adopted recently by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund[96] as part of ongoing efforts by Member States to reverse the declining trend in core resources and to put funding for United Nations development activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of the developing countries, and in this context urges the expeditious and productive outcome of these and other discussions of the executive boards, and invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, on an annual basis, the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes;

C. *United Nations Development Assistance Framework*

17. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is currently in a pilot phase,[97] should promote a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response by the United Nations system to achieve greater impact at the country level, fully consistent with and in support of national priorities as expressed in the country strategy notes or relevant national development plans, as appropriate;

18. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring full government participation in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its full ownership through the agreement of the recipient Governments concerned to the finalized Framework, bearing in mind that the responsibility for coordination of all assistance and developmental activities rests with the national Government;

19. *Also stresses* the need to ensure the full and active participation of the funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

20. *Notes* the importance of closer consultation, in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, among national Governments, relevant United Nations development agencies, including specialized agencies, and other relevant development partners;

21. *Also notes* that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative and that where it does not exist, other similar frameworks reflecting national priorities should be used as the basis for the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure that the Framework fully responds to national development priorities and needs;

22. *Further notes* the role that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should play to facilitate, *inter alia*, the contribution of the United Nations to the coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences at the field level and the importance of the common country assessment for the effective formulation of the Framework;

D. *Resident coordinator system*

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, *inter alia*, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach within the United Nations system;

24. *Notes* the improvements in the functioning of the resident coordinator system, and encourages further progress in close consultation with national Governments;

25. *Encourages* further efforts, including through the United Nations Development Group, to further improve the resident coordinator system, and welcomes the efforts to continue to broaden the base of recruitment of resident coordinators, increasing the number of women resident coordinators and improving its selection criteria and procedures, including through the use of competency assessment and training and by ensuring that the resident coordinators take fully into account the mandates of all organizations of the resident coordinator system;

26. *Reaffirms* that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

27. *Requests* the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide support to the resident coordinator system;

E. *United Nations Development Group*

28. *Urges* the United Nations Development Group to work in a fully transparent and accountable manner towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field, while respecting the specific mandates and identity of its members;

II

A. *Planning, programming and implementation*

29. *Stresses* that the needs and priorities of recipient countries require flexibility and decentralization of operational activities to the country level, as well as the continued application of those measures, to enhance further programme responsiveness and impact;

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[96] See DP/1999/2.

[97] See A/53/226, paras. 72–77, and A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 88–98.

30. *Decides* that, with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links between national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

31. *Calls* for the further simplification, harmonization and rationalization of procedures for operational activities of the United Nations development system at the field level, where possible, and developing common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

32. *Urges* the funds and programmes to put in place specific measures and timetables to advance the simplification and harmonization of procedures and to report on these to their respective governing bodies;

33. *Also calls* for the United Nations development system to promote greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level and, at the field level, the sharing of administrative systems and services;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through fulfilling the commitments and targets agreed upon at those conferences, and in this context stresses the importance of accelerating efforts for the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, and in this context welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998, in which the Council decided to start, on a step-by-step basis, an intergovernmental process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and in this context also welcomes the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999;

35. *Encourages* greater cooperation between the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes, with a view to increased complementarity and better division of labour as well as enhanced coherence in their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and fully in accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

36. *Notes* the current initiatives in pursuing common premises and the need to take fully into account cost-benefit studies as called for by relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden imposed on host countries;

B. *Capacity-building*

37. *Reaffirms* that capacity-building and its sustainability should be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance provided by the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of strengthening national capacities in the fields of, *inter alia*, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

C. *Humanitarian assistance*

38. *Expresses concern* at the growing number of natural disasters and environmental emergencies that often strike countries that lack the resources to cope with them adequately;

39. *Recognizes* that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously, and notes the urgent need to develop, through a strategic framework, when appropriate, a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, and that the development of such a comprehensive approach must involve national authorities as well as the United Nations system, donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that national authorities must take a leading role in all aspects of the recovery plan, and also notes in this context the need for an early application of developmental tools in humanitarian emergencies, and takes note with appreciation of the recommendations included in the report of the Secretary-General in this regard;[95]

40. *Stresses* that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

D. *Regional dimension*

41. *Stresses* the growing need for incorporating the regional and subregional dimension in United Nations operational activities for development, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure greater involvement of the regional commissions, taking into account their agreed mandates and work programmes, in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

E. *Cross-cutting themes*

1. *South-South cooperation/technical and economic cooperation among developing countries*

42. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

43. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context requests the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

44. *Notes with satisfaction* the broad-based support for technical cooperation among developing countries expressed by Member States at the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for

Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;[98]

45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendations on strengthening the integration of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[99]

2. *Gender*

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to take all measures to ensure gender balance when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

47. *Stresses* the need for gender mainstreaming in operational activities of the United Nations system in all fields, in particular in support of poverty eradication;

3. *National execution*

48. *Decides* that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible and practicable, available national expertise and indigenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities;

49. *Calls upon* all funds and programmes to consider ways to increase, within existing rules and regulations, the procurement of goods and services from developing countries, both as a mechanism to promote South-South cooperation and for enhancing national execution;

50. *Calls* for further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants, in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system, in order to enhance the coherence of the system;

51. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to work on promoting, improving and expanding national execution, including through the simplification and strengthening of relevant procedures, so as to contribute to the advancement of national ownership and to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries in Africa;

III

Monitoring and evaluation

52. *Recognizes* that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including joint evaluations, should be impartial and independent, under the overall leadership of the Government;

53. *Takes note* of the report on pilot evaluation conducted on the impact of operational activities and the need to continue these evaluations with the full and effective involvement of the recipient Government concerned in the process of such evaluation;

54. *Emphasizes* the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation within the United Nations development system;

55. *Underlines* the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations development system, in particular the members of the United Nations Development Group, and relevant development partners at the country level;

56. *Recognizes*, in that context, the need to strengthen capacities of the recipient countries to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

57. *Requests* that the United Nations system strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that the lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied to programming processes at the operational level and that evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage;

IV

Follow-up

58. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

59. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of those funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present a progress report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

61. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1999 and 2000, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation

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[98] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[99] A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 35–54.

of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

62. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, to consider, *inter alia*, the issues of poverty eradication and capacity-building and, at its substantive session of 2000, to consider, *inter alia*, harmonization and simplification, including of programming, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations;

63. *Decides*, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, in consultation with Member States, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, and requests the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, and also requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the Economic and Social Council on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

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53/193. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children;[100]

2. *Decides* to postpone to its fifty-fourth session consideration of the arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the Summit.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/194. United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Welcoming the appointment of Hans van Ginkel as the fourth Rector of the United Nations University, by the Secretary-General in September 1997,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[101] the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,[102] the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University as transmitted by the Secretary-General[103] and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University,[104]

Bearing in mind the need to ensure a coordinated system-wide approach to training and training-related research issues as well as to establish a coherent strategy for building on common fields of interest and complementarities between the various training and research institutions within the United Nations system,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with United Nations Headquarters in the context of the development and implementation of a University-wide strategic plan which would help the University to determine an overall strategic direction for the future, and, in this context, encouraging him further to enhance interdisciplinary research, as recommended in the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[104]

Noting also with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a self-assessment of the University,

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the review of the United Nations University carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and the internal assessment conducted by an ad hoc committee of the Council of the University and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to intensify such efforts further;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made by the University in contributing to the work of the United Nations, and requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system and to continue their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of work within the system;

4. *Requests* the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's research and training centres and its programmes,

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[100] A/53/186.

[101] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/53/31).

[102] A/53/408.

[103] See A/53/392.

[104] See A/53/392/Add.1.

keeping in mind the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities";[105]

5. *Recognizes* the importance of creating linkages, collaboration and cooperation with other research institutions and universities in developing countries to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices so as to mainstream the perspective of developing countries in the activities of the University;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system and to ensure that the work of the University is taken into account in all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/187 of 16 December 1996, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

7. *Welcomes* the intention of the University to strengthen its policy-analysis and capacity-building activities in conjunction with the continuation of fundamental research and reflection in the strategic plan now being developed by the University for 1999–2002;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the further participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and also requests him, taking into account resolution 51/187, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on such further participation of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and synergy;

9. *Urges* the University, in its allocation of fellowships, to increase the number of researchers from developing countries, thereby enabling them to benefit from the knowledge, expertise and skills of the University and enhance capacity-building efforts in developing countries, particularly in educational and research institutions;

10. *Requests* the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 51/187, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

11. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, and in particular to its Endowment Fund.

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15 December 1998

53/195. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996 and 52/206 of 18 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[106] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute,[107]

Welcoming the successful restructuring of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Noting the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities",[108]

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to address urgently this discrepancy,

Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training and underlines the need for United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

2. *Reaffirms also* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

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[105] A/52/559, annex.

[106] A/53/534.

[107] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/53/14).

[108] A/52/559, annex.

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

4. *Also stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

6. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue its efforts to address the discrepancy between the contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and participation in its programmes;

7. *Stresses* the need for enhanced coordination between the main training and research institutions of the United Nations system, based on an effective division of labour among these institutions;

8. *Notes* the survey prepared by the Institute of training institutes and training programmes within the United Nations,[109] and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Institute, to prepare, from within existing financial resources, an assessment of the survey with a view to highlighting the lessons learned from the responses already received, providing a qualitative assessment of pedagogical methods followed by these institutions in the provision of their training services and highlighting the complementarities and synergies that were apparent in the survey;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, consistent with the division of labour;

10. *Underlines* the need to develop further and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

11. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to attract, to the extent possible, experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute, as well as with the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and modalities to utilize systematically the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/196. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/207 of 18 December 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/32 of 29 July 1998,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[110] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Aware of the additional, detrimental economic and social impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources,

Expressing its concern at the difficulties facing the Middle East peace process which started at Madrid on 30 October 1991 and which is based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace,

1. *Takes note* of the report transmitted by the Secretary-General;[111]

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[109] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/53/14), paras. 23–26. For the results of the survey, see the UNITAR website (www.unitar.org).

[110] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[111] A/53/163–E/1998/79, annex.

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss or depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

91st plenary meeting
15th December 1998

53/197. International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that microcredit programmes have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many countries around the world,

Bearing in mind that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

Recognizing that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a factor contributing to the social and human development process,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Noting the support to microcredit in the outcomes of different summit and high-level meetings, including the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997,[112] the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held at Male from 12 to 14 May 1997,[113] the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997,[114] the statement on economic and financial issues of the Group of Seven, issued at Denver, United States of America, on 21 June 1997, the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva from 30 June to 25 July 1997,[115] the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held at Edinburgh from 24 to 27 October 1997 and the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 19 and 20 May 1998,[116]

Noting also that 2005 is the final year of the campaign of the Microcredit Summit, which was held in Washington, D. C., from 2 to 4 February 1997 and which, through its Declaration and Plan of Action,[117] endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by that year,

Noting further that the international community is observing the period 1997–2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Proclaims* the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit;

2. *Requests* that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes throughout the world;

3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society, the private sector and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, its contribution to social development and its positive impact on the lives of people living in poverty;

4. *Invites* all involved in the eradication of poverty to consider taking additional steps, including the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to an increasing number of people living in poverty, and to develop further, where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a report containing a draft programme of action for the effective observance of the Year, in consultation with all relevant actors including United Nations bodies, under an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" to be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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[112] A/51/912–S/1997/406, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, document S/1997/406.

[113] A/52/222, annex.

[114] A/52/465, annex II.

[115] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 1* (E/1997/97).

[116] A/52/970–S/1998/574.

[117] A/52/113–E/1997/18, annex I.

53/198. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997 relating to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) and all of its other resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

Recalling also the declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summit conferences in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)[118] and the report of the United Nations Development Programme, *Overcoming Human Poverty*,[119]

Expressing its concern that the total number of people living in poverty is still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that a large majority of them are women and children,

Recognizing that, while the rates of poverty in some countries have been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized while others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Expressing its concern that the financial crisis has aggravated the existing poverty in the countries affected and placed a large number of people once again in conditions of poverty in the developing countries affected either directly or indirectly by the crisis,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries in eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social protection,

Noting the decisions, measures and actions taken to eradicate poverty by countries and by organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;

2. *Calls* for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at United Nations major conferences and summit conferences organized since 1990 as they relate to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Decade as early as possible;

3. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication by fostering, *inter alia*, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making on policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter and human resources development, including education, fresh water, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and enable them to build their strength and assets so as to achieve social and economic integration;

5. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all, and in this context emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of economic growth that favours the poor and creates employment and promotes equitable income distribution;

6. *Recognizes* that the process of globalization brings with it opportunities but also poses new challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in their efforts to eradicate poverty;

7. *Recognizes also* the importance of appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including, *inter alia*, sound macroeconomic and social policies, so as to realize the objective of the eradication of poverty;

8. *Calls* for continued action by the international community to create an enabling economic environment and to assist developing countries further in their efforts to combat the negative impact of globalization, to fight marginalization and to pursue their development;

9. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on the eradication of poverty;

10. *Emphasizes* that, in developing countries, rural development remains central to efforts to eradicate poverty and that this often includes agrarian reform, investment in infrastructure, extension of rural financial intermediation, measures to ensure food security, the provision of better education, greater utilization of appropriate technology, fair

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[118] A/53/329.

[119] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.III.B.2.

prices to provide incentives for agricultural investment and increased productivity, including productivity in the informal sector;

11. *Emphasizes also* that, in all countries, urban poverty should be addressed, *inter alia*, by promoting sustainable livelihoods for people living in urban poverty through the provision or expansion of access to training, education and other employment assistance services, in particular for women, youth, the unemployed and the underemployed;

12. *Welcomes* the fact that a considerable number of countries have formulated plans and programmes to fight poverty, and in this context notes the efforts made to achieve the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and invites all Governments that have not yet done so to formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes, in a participatory manner, in order to address the structural cause of poverty, encompassing action at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and stresses that those plans or programmes should establish, taking into account specific national circumstances, strategies, including affordable time-bound goals and targets, for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty;

13. *Calls upon* the developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives taken regarding debt relief for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of increasing the control of the poor over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections;

16. *Emphasizes also* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of productive self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and to explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach in their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinance instruments;

17. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Economic and Social Council to strengthen coordination for an integrated implementation of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summit conferences in the 1990s, where the eradication of poverty had been a cross-cutting theme;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made within the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency coordination among relevant organizations, funds and programmes and the Bretton Woods institutions for the integrated follow-up to the United Nations major conferences and summit conferences, including the adoption by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the statement of commitment for action to eradicate poverty,[120] and encourages those agencies to take more effective action in support of Member States in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Decade;

19. *Reiterates its call* to all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their development assistance programmes, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, and invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating absolute poverty, to reduce substantially overall poverty and to ensure basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

20. *Notes with appreciation* all initiatives aimed at or contributing to the eradication of poverty that have been undertaken by countries and international organizations, and encourages continuous action and further cooperation among the various initiatives;

21. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;[121]

22. *Decides* that the themes for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 1999 and 2000 shall be, respectively, "Women and the eradication of poverty" and "Globalization and the eradication of poverty";

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations for possible action and initiatives towards the new millennium and proposals for better coordination of action taken by the United Nations system;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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[120] See TD/B/EX(18)/INF.1.

[121] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I.

53/199. Proclamation of international years

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 and 1998/1 of 6 February 1998,

Recalling also its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

Reaffirming the importance of the guidelines for international years and anniversaries, adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424, for the consideration of proposals for the proclamation of international years,

Recognizing the need to provide for effective arrangements for the proclamation of international years,

Decides that, starting from 1999, proposals for the proclamation of international years should be submitted directly to the Assembly for consideration and action, unless the Assembly decides to bring them to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned guidelines.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/200. Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/40 of 30 July 1998,

Proclaims 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

53/201. Public administration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996 on public administration and development,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225;[122]

2. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council decision 1998/220 of 23 July 1998, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 50/225, and to report his findings to the Assembly through the Council in 2001.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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[122] A/53/173–E/1998/87.

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53/109. International Year of Older Persons, 1999

The General Assembly,

Recalling its Proclamation on Ageing,[1] in which, *inter alia*, it designated the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling also the conceptual and operational frameworks for the Year,[2]

Convinced of the need to implement the International Plan of Action on Ageing[3] and to promote adherence to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons,[4]

Mindful of its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it expressed its conviction that older persons must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

Mindful also of the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[5] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[7] the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[8] and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[9]

Aware that, on the eve of the twenty-first century, the ageing of individuals and populations, unprecedented in the history of humankind, is having far-reaching effects on the way societies organize themselves, on relationships between the generations in families and communities, on the entire course of individual lives and on the terms, images and roles of older persons in their societies,

Mindful of the necessity to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the Year,

Wishing to promote investments to further lifelong human development and to preserve and support age-integrated social institutions,

Convinced that moving towards a society for all ages will require policies that strengthen individual lifelong development into late life, focusing on self-help and independence, and, relatedly and simultaneously, strengthen enabling environments of families, neighbourhoods, communities of interest and broad societal institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons, with the theme "A society for all ages", on 1 October 1998 around the world and at United Nations Headquarters by the Secretary-General;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the valuable report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the International Year of Older Persons,[10] including its exploration of a society for all ages, presented for further debate by national committees and others;

3. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and all other actors, in reaching out for a future society for all ages, to take advantage of the Year so as to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies, the individual and social needs of older persons, the contributions of older persons to society and the need for a change in attitudes towards older persons;

4. *Welcomes* the activities relating to older persons undertaken by States, United Nations organizations and bodies and non-governmental organizations devoted to raising awareness, networking, reaching out and looking ahead beyond 1999;

5. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish a national focal point or broad-based committee for the Year, and re-emphasizes that activities for the Year should be initiated primarily at the national level;

6. *Welcomes* the redesignation of the intergovernmental support group as the Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons, and invites it to continue its contributions to the observance of the Year;

7. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development should mainstream the issue of older persons into the work of the Commission and the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly to review the World Summit for Social Development in the year 2000;

8. *Calls upon* States, United Nations agencies and bodies and institutions of civil society, including the research community, to avoid age and gender bias in their treatment of older women so as to ensure that all older women have equal access to the private sector and to social services and to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Encourages* States to embody in appropriate legislation the rights of older persons to equal access to and the

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[1] Resolution 47/5, annex.

[2] A/50/114 and A/52/328.

[3] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July–6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI.

[4] Resolution 46/91, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] A/53/294.

use of social services, including care-giving systems and support services, without any discrimination;

10. *Urges* that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate;

11. *Invites* national committees to consider the desirability of drawing up:

(*a*) A set of principles for a society for all ages;

(*b*) Practical strategies for a society for all ages aimed at mainstreaming ageing into programmes and policies, while ensuring that the immediate developmental, income-security and health-care needs of older persons are met;

12. *Invites* national and international development entities, foundations and enterprises to explore ways of improving the access of older persons to credit, training and appropriate technologies for income generation and their participation in family, community and small businesses;

13. *Invites* Member States, in the five-year review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] to examine the implications of individual and population ageing;

14. *Invites* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue its information campaign, intensifying, as feasible, its activities in January 1999 in support of countries that were unable to launch observances of the Year on 1 October 1998;

15. *Recommends* that research agendas for the next decades address the socio-economic adjustments required to move towards a society for all ages, focusing essentially on the lifelong and society-wide immediate and long-term implications of individual and population ageing within varied national contexts, and requests the United Nations programme on ageing to give priority attention to the research needs of developing countries;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers and organizations of older persons to evaluate the contributions of senior volunteers in creating societies for all ages, in keeping with the traditions, resources and aspirations of each country;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

18. *Invites* those institutions of civil society that are playing a vital role at the local, national and international levels in promoting the Year to focus their observance in 1999 of the International Day of Older Persons, 1 October, on the theme "Late-life potentials and contributions in a new age";

19. *Requests* States to participate, at an appropriate global policy-making level, in the four plenary meetings which, in resolution 52/80 of 12 December 1997, it decided to devote at its fifty-fourth session to the Year and its follow-up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/110. Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997 on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Considering that, pursuant to its resolutions 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is to be convened in the year 2000,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and the draft rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders annexed to that resolution,

Emphasizing the role of the Tenth Congress as a consultative body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the Programme annexed to resolution 46/152,

Aware of the important work to be accomplished by the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all the preparatory activities for the Tenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the preparations for the Tenth Congress,[11]

1. *Accepts with gratitude* the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at Vienna;

2. *Decides* to hold the Tenth Congress from 10 to 17 April 2000, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 9 April 2000;

3. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress, finalized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system.

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[11] E/CN.15/1998/2.

4. International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century.

5. Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments.

6. Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.

7. Adoption of the report of the Congress;

4. *Notes* that the Commission, at its seventh session, reviewed a draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress;[12]

5. *Endorses* the programme of work for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four practical-oriented technical workshops on the following subjects:

(*a*) Combating corruption;

(*b*) Crimes related to the computer network;

(*c*) Community involvement in crime prevention;

(*d*) Women in the criminal justice system;

6. *Decides* that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century";

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops, and invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to support financially, organizationally and technically the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

8. *Welcomes* the offer of the institutes constituting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to assist in the preparations for the workshops;

9. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops;

10. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Tenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization and follow-up of the workshops;

11. *Decides*, without prejudice to the current preparatory arrangements for the Tenth Congress, to streamline and minimize the costs of the preparation and servicing of the regional preparatory meetings by shortening their duration and limiting their documentation, by holding them in conjunction with other regional meetings or, if they are not absolutely necessary, by not convening them at all;

12. *Also decides* that the savings achieved should be used in servicing meetings and in supporting the priority programme activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To take the necessary logistic steps, in collaboration with Member States and the institutes constituting the Programme network, to mobilize the participation of interested partners in the preparations for the four workshops;

(*b*) To ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the implementation of its conclusions;

14. *Requests* the Commission, as the preparatory body for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, to accord high priority at its eighth session to the finalization in good time of all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements;

15. *Also requests* the Commission, at its eighth session, to prepare a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings;

16. *Urges* the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items of the agenda and workshop topics of the Tenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be considered by the Commission at its eighth session;

17. *Requests* the Tenth Congress to elaborate a single declaration containing its recommendations on the various substantive items of its agenda with a view to submitting that declaration to the Commission for consideration at its ninth session;

18. *Decides* that the Commission, at its tenth session, should undertake a review of the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, including the issue of regional preparatory meetings;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session.

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53/111. Transnational organized crime

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/159 of 23 December 1994 and 52/85 of 12 December 1997,

Taking note of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,[13] the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, adopted by the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Dakar from 21 to 23 July 1997,[14] and the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime, adopted by the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Manila from 23 to 25 March 1998,[15]

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[12] E/CN.15/1998/2/Add.1/Rev.1.

Convinced of the importance of continuous action by Member States aimed at the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[16]

Convinced also of the need to proceed expeditiously with the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime,

Mindful of the fact that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1997/232 of 21 July 1997, the theme for the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was "Organized transnational crime",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime: question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, and other possible international instruments;[17]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Poland for acting as host to the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts, established pursuant to resolution 52/85, on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998;

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts;[18]

4. *Urges* Member States to continue to make every possible effort to implement fully the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan by taking the most appropriate legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, including those aimed at prevention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the development and maintenance of the central repository established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996;

6. *Urges* Member States to respond promptly to the requests of the Secretary-General for data, and other information and material, including legislation and pertinent regulatory texts, by submitting such information and material in accordance with the methodological points and categorization of data set forth in annex II to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22 of 21 July 1997, in order to facilitate the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the elaboration of training manuals for law enforcement and judicial personnel on action against transnational organized crime;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to identify and allocate, within the overall budget of the United Nations, adequate resources for strengthening the capacity of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in order to assist Member States in the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide Member States with technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance upon request in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of transnational organized crime;

10. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea;

11. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host an informal preparatory meeting of the intergovernmental ad hoc committee at Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998, so as to ensure the continuation without interruption of work on the elaboration of the convention;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the intergovernmental ad hoc committee at Vienna from 18 to 29 January 1999 and to consider the possibility of convening a second meeting before the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, if this proves necessary to advance the process;

13. *Decides* to accept the recommendation of the Commission to elect Luigi Lauriola (Italy) as the Chairman of the intergovernmental ad hoc committee;

14. *Requests* the intergovernmental ad hoc committee, in carrying out its work pursuant to paragraph 10 above, to take into account the report of the intergovernmental group of experts, the report of the working group on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan

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[13] E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

[14] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, sect. I.

[15] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, sect. I.

[16] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[17] E/CN.15/1998/6.

[18] E/CN.15/1998/5.

against Organized Transnational Crime,[19] including its appendices, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/18, 1998/19 and 1998/20 of 28 July 1998;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources to convene, support and follow up the work of the intergovernmental ad hoc committee;

16. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the work of the intergovernmental ad hoc committee;

17. *Requests* the intergovernmental ad hoc committee to submit a progress report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session and to hold a meeting during that session for at least three working days.

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53/112. Mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters provide important tools for the development of international cooperation,

Convinced that existing arrangements governing international cooperation in criminal justice must be regularly reviewed and revised to ensure that the specific contemporary problems of fighting crime are effectively addressed,

Bearing in mind that developing countries and countries with economies in transition may lack the resources for developing and implementing treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters,

Convinced that complementing and supplementing the United Nations model treaties will contribute to increased efficiency in combating criminality,

Recalling its resolution 45/117 of 14 December 1990, by which it adopted the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, annexed to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolution 52/88 of 12 December 1997,

Commending the work of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, held at Arlington, Virginia, United States of America, from 23 to 26 February 1998, to implement in part resolution 52/88 by proposing complementary provisions for the Model Treaty, elements for inclusion in model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters, and training and technical assistance for national officials engaged in that field,

Commending also the Government of the United States of America for hosting the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting, for its substantial contribution to the organization of the Meeting and for the support given by the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice through the programme of the United Nations On-line Crime and Justice Clearing House,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, held at Arlington, Virginia, United States of America, from 23 to 26 February 1998;[20]

2. *Decides* that the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters should be complemented by the provisions set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

3. *Encourages* Member States, within the framework of national legal systems, to enact effective legislation on mutual assistance, and calls upon the international community to give all possible assistance in order to contribute to the achievement of that goal;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, for submission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters, in order to enhance effective cooperation between States, taking into account the elements recommended by the Intergovernmental Expert Group for inclusion in such model legislation, which are set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

5. *Invites* Member States to take into account the Model Treaty in negotiating treaties at the bilateral, regional or multilateral level, as appropriate;

6. *Also invites* Member States to consider, where applicable and within the framework of national legal systems, the following measures in the context of the application of treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters or other arrangements for such mutual assistance:

(*a*) Establishing or designating a national central authority or authorities to process requests for assistance;

(*b*) Undertaking regular reviews of their treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters or other arrangements and implementing legislation, as well as taking other necessary measures for the purpose of rendering such arrangements and legislation more efficient and effective in combating established and emerging forms of crime;

(*c*) Concluding asset-sharing arrangements as a means of enabling forfeited proceeds of crime to be used to strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice systems and contributing a part of such proceeds to programmes such as those aimed at enhancing national capacities for fighting crime in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, paying due consideration to the rights of bona fide third parties;

(*d*) Making use of videoconferencing and other modern means of communication for, *inter alia*, the transmission of requests, consultation between central authorities, the taking of testimony and statements, and training;

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[19] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (E/1998/30 and Corr.1), annex III.

[20] E/CN.15/1998/7, annex.

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote, on a bilateral, regional or worldwide basis, measures to improve the skills of officials in order to strengthen mutual assistance mechanisms, such as specialized training and, whenever possible, secondment and exchanges of relevant personnel, and to consider the use of videoconferencing and other modern means of communication for training purposes;

8. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to provide to the Secretary-General copies of relevant laws and information on practices related to international cooperation in criminal matters and, in particular, to mutual assistance in criminal matters, as well as updated information on central authorities designated to deal with requests;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To update and disseminate regularly the information mentioned in paragraph 8 above and, in particular, to prepare, for use by Member States, a directory of central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance, drawing on the information already collected during the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting;

(*b*) To continue to provide advisory and technical cooperation services to Member States requesting assistance in drafting and implementing appropriate national legislation and in developing and implementing bilateral, subregional, regional or international treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters, drawing on the expertise of Member States as appropriate;

(*c*) To provide, in cooperation with interested Member States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, training in mutual assistance law and practice for personnel in appropriate governmental agencies and for central authorities of requesting Member States in an effort to develop the necessary skills and to improve communication and cooperation aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of mutual assistance mechanisms;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with interested Member States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and the institutes constituting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to develop appropriate training materials for use in providing to requesting Member States the technical assistance referred to above;

11. *Commends* the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences of Siracusa, Italy, for its offer to organize and host up to two training seminars for mutual assistance officials, and invites interested Member States to provide voluntary contributions to offset the travel costs of officials from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition and to make substantive contributions to the seminars;

12. *Urges* Member States and funding agencies to assist the Secretary-General in implementing the present resolution through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the present resolution.

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ANNEX I

Complementary provisions for the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

Article 1

1. In paragraph 3 (*b*), replace the words "Optional Protocol to" with the words "article 18 of".

Article 3

2. In the title, replace the word "competent" with the word "central".

3. Insert the word "central" before the word "authority".

4. Add the following footnote to the end of the article:

> "Countries may wish to consider providing for direct communications between central authorities and for the central authorities to play an active role in ensuring the speedy execution of requests, controlling quality and setting priorities. Countries may also wish to agree that the central authorities are not the exclusive channel for assistance between the Parties and that the direct exchange of information should be encouraged to the extent permitted by domestic law or arrangements."

Article 4

5. In the footnote to paragraph 1, replace the last sentence with the following:

> "Countries may wish, where feasible, to render assistance, even if the act on which the request is based is not an offence in the requested State (absence of dual criminality). Countries may also consider restricting the requirement of dual criminality to certain types of assistance, such as search and seizure."

6. In paragraph 1 (*d*) delete the words "that is subject to investigation or prosecution in the requested State or".

7. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 4:

> "States should consult, in accordance with article 20, before assistance is refused or postponed."

Article 5

8. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 2:

> "Countries may wish to provide that the request may be made by modern means of communication, including, in particularly urgent cases, verbal requests that are confirmed in writing forthwith."

Article 6

9. Add the following footnote to the end of the article:

> "The requested State should secure such orders, including judicial orders, as may be necessary for the execution of the request. Countries may also wish to agree, in accordance with national legislation, to represent or act on behalf or for the benefit of the requesting State in legal proceedings necessary to secure such orders."

Article 8

10. Add the following words to the end of the footnote to the article:

> ", or restrict use of evidence only where the requested State makes an express request to that effect."

11. Add the following words to the beginning of the article: "Unless otherwise agreed,".

Article 11

12. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 2:

> "Wherever possible and consistent with the fundamental principles of domestic law, the Parties should permit testimony, statements or other forms of assistance to be given via video link or other modern means of communication and should ensure that perjury committed under such circumstances is a criminal offence."

Article 12

13. In the English version of paragraph 1, replace the word "required" with the words "called upon".

14. Add the following footnote to the end of the article:

> "Some countries may wish to provide that a witness who is testifying in the requesting State may not refuse to testify on the basis of a privilege applicable in the requested State."

New article 18

15. Insert as new article 18, entitled "Proceeds of crime", paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters concerning the proceeds of crime and delete the remaining text of the Protocol, including the footnotes.

16. Replace the word "Protocol" with the word "article" throughout the new article.

17. Add the following footnote to the end of the title of the new article:

> "Assistance in forfeiting the proceeds of crime has emerged as an important instrument in international cooperation. Provisions similar to those outlined in the present article appear in many bilateral assistance treaties. Further details can be provided in bilateral arrangements. One matter that could be considered is the need for other provisions dealing with issues related to bank secrecy. Provision could be made for the equitable sharing of the proceeds of crime between the Contracting States or for consideration of the disposal of the proceeds on a case-by-case basis."

18. Add the following footnote to the end of paragraph 5:

> "The Parties might consider widening the scope of the present article by the inclusion of references to victims' restitution and the recovery of fines imposed as a sentence in a criminal prosecution."

Articles 18–21

19. Renumber former article 18 as article 19 and renumber all subsequent articles accordingly.

ANNEX II

Elements recommended for inclusion in model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters

A. *General recommendation*

1. Model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters should reflect in statutory terms the general provisions of the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, together with the recommendations contained in annex I above. To the extent possible, it should provide different options for States with different legal systems. Where relevant, it should take into account provisions of the model bill on mutual assistance in criminal matters developed in 1998 by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

B. *Scope*

2. The model legislation should provide a full range of flexible options for assuming mutual assistance obligations. When there is a treaty on mutual assistance in criminal matters, the terms of that treaty should govern the relationship. The legislation should also permit mutual assistance to be provided without a treaty, with or without reciprocity.

C. *Jurisdiction*

3. The model legislation could provide for jurisdiction, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To issue judicial orders necessary for executing mutual assistance requests;

(*b*) To authorize the requested State to act on behalf or for the benefit of, or to represent the interests of, the requesting State in legal proceedings necessary for executing mutual assistance requests;

(*c*) To punish perjury committed during mutual assistance, in particular perjury committed during videoconferencing.

D. *Procedure*

4. The model legislation should include options for procedures dealing with both incoming and outgoing requests for assistance in criminal matters. Such procedures should be in conformity, wherever applicable, with international and regional human rights instruments. Where no treaty provision is applicable, the legislation could also contain provisions on specific forms of mutual assistance, including testimony and other forms of cooperation carried out via video link,

cooperation in asset seizure and forfeiture and the temporary transfer of witnesses in custody.

5. The model legislation could provide for the establishment of a central authority or authorities for the receipt and transmission of requests and the provision of advice and assistance to relevant authorities. The legislation could also specify the extent of the central authority's powers.

E. *Communications*

6. Where no treaty provision is applicable, the legislation should set forth the means of communicating between the requesting State and the requested State, allowing for the use of the most modern forms of communication.

53/113. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/89 of 12 December 1997 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[21] and further acknowledging the assistance rendered to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

2. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

3. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

4. *Appeals* to all Member States and non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and implement its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme to work closely with the Institute;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which could not be adequately dealt with by national action alone;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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53/114. Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in which it approved the statement of principles and programme of action annexed to that resolution,

Bearing in mind the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating crime, including drug-related crimes such as money-laundering, illicit arms trade and terrorist crimes, bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase technical cooperation activities in order to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with their efforts in translating United Nations policy guidelines into practice,

Recalling its relevant resolutions in which it requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandate, in conformity with the high priority attached to the Programme,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/90 of 12 December 1997;[22]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the crucial role it has to play in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational

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[21] A/53/381.

[22] A/53/380.

criminality and in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime;

3. *Also reaffirms* the priority of the Programme, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and requests the Secretary-General further to strengthen the Programme by providing it with the resources necessary for the full implementation of its mandate, including follow-up action to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[23] and to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995;[24]

4. *Further reaffirms* the high priority attached to technical cooperation and advisory services in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and stresses the need to continue to improve the operational activities of the Programme, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to meet the needs of Member States, at their request, for support in crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. *Encourages* the ongoing efforts of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to obtain executing agency status with the United Nations Development Programme;

6. *Calls upon* States and United Nations funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for the operational activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, and encourages all States to make voluntary contributions for that purpose to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, taking into account the activities required for the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to non-governmental organizations and other relevant sectors of civil society for their support to the Programme, and encourages them to increase such support;

8. *Calls upon* States to review funding policies for development assistance so as to include crime prevention and criminal justice in such assistance;

9. *Calls upon* all relevant programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical operational activities in this field;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the contributions of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme to United Nations peacekeeping and special missions, as well as its contributions to the follow-up to those missions, *inter alia*, through advisory services, and encourages the Secretary-General, as a way of strengthening the rule of law, to recommend the inclusion of the re-establishment and reform of judicial and criminal justice systems in peacekeeping operations;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to continue to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in particular in the areas of transnational organized crime and money-laundering;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to assist the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal policy-making body in this field, in performing its activities, including cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women;

13. *Calls upon* the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee, established on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime to devote attention to the drafting of the main text of the convention, as well as, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to improve the strategic management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and to exercise more vigorously its mandated function of resource mobilization, and calls upon the Commission to strengthen further its activities in this direction;

15. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Commission to mainstream a gender perspective into all its activities and its request to the Secretariat that a gender perspective be integrated into all activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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53/115. International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/92 of 12 December 1997,

Welcoming the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and the determination of Governments at the highest political level to overcome the world drug problem by a full and balanced application of national, regional and international strategies to reduce the illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in drugs, as reflected in the Political Declaration,[25] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[26] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[27]

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[23] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[24] See A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1.

Gravely concerned that, despite continued increased efforts by States, relevant international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, there is a global expansion of the drug problem, which constitutes a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all mankind, in particular young people, in all countries, undermines development, socio-economic and political stability and democratic institutions, entails an increasing economic cost for Governments, also threatens the national security and sovereignty of States, as well as the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families, and causes irreparable loss of human lives,

Deeply alarmed by the growing and spreading violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug-trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money-laundering and illicit traffic in arms, precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing the need for international cooperation and implementation of effective strategies on the basis of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which are essential to achieving results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Deeply convinced that the special session made a significant contribution to a new comprehensive framework for international cooperation, based on an integrated and balanced approach with strategies, measures, methods, practical activities, goals and specific targets to be met, that all States, the United Nations system and other international organizations must implement them with concrete actions and that the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, and the regional development banks should be invited to include action against the world drug problem in their programmes, taking into account the priorities of States,

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can make an effective contribution to and should play an active role in addressing the world drug problem,

Emphasizing the importance of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction that introduces a global approach, recognizing a new balance between illicit supply and demand reduction, under the principle of shared responsibility, aims at preventing the use of drugs and at reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse, special attention being paid to youth, and is one of the pillars of the new global strategy and an important initiative of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991–2000, and reaffirming the need for demand reduction programmes,

Emphasizing equally the importance of supply reduction as an integral part of a balanced drug control strategy under the principles enshrined in the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[28] and reaffirming the need for alternative development programmes,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, the leadership role and commendable work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted multilateral action and the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent monitoring authority, as set out in the international drug control treaties,

Recognizing the efforts of countries that produce narcotic drugs for scientific and medical purposes to prevent the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[29]

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Stressing that respect for all human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

Ensuring that women and men benefit equally, and without any discrimination, from strategies directed against the world drug problem, through their involvement in all stages of programmes and policy-making,

Recognizing that the use of the Internet poses new opportunities and challenges to international cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,

I

RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

1. *Reaffirms* that the fight against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility which must be addressed in a multilateral setting, requiring an integrated and balanced approach, and must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the

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[25] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[26] Resolution S-20/3, annex.

[27] Resolution S-20/4.

[28] Resolution S-20/4 E.

[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Calls upon* all States to take further actions to promote effective cooperation at the international and regional levels in the efforts to combat the world drug problem so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving that end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Urges* all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[30] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[31] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[32]

II

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COUNTER THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

1. *Urges* competent authorities, at the international, regional and national levels, to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, within the agreed time-frames, in particular the high-priority practical measures at the international, regional or national level, as indicated in the Political Declaration,[25] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[26] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[27] including the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors,[33] the measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,[34] the measures to promote judicial cooperation,[35] the measures to counter money-laundering[36] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development;[28]

2. *Renews* its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts to counter the world drug problem, in accordance with the obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions, on the basis of the general framework given by the Global Programme of Action,[37] and the outcome of the special session, and taking into account experience gained;

3. *Calls upon* all States to adopt effective measures, including national laws and regulations, to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments, in order to implement the outcome and the goals of the special session;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental and international organizations, within their mandates, and all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations, the media and the private sector, to cooperate more closely with Governments in their efforts to promote and implement the actions to fulfil the Global Programme of Action and the outcome of the special session;

5. *Urges* Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist and support, upon request, transit States, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support, aiming at enhancing their capacity to fight illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and emphasizes the importance of national initiatives, as well as subregional, regional and international cooperation, in combating illicit drug trafficking;

6. *Reaffirms* that preventing the diversion of chemicals from legitimate commerce to illicit drug manufacture is an essential component of a comprehensive strategy against drug abuse and trafficking, takes note of the progress made in developing practical guidelines, including those of the International Narcotics Control Board and the recommendations on implementing article 12 of the 1988 Convention, and calls upon all States to adopt and implement measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals to illicit drug manufacture in accordance with the resolution on the control of precursors, adopted at the special session;[34]

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-second session, in March 1999, on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development;

8. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine, at its forty-second session, the proposal for an action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which is being elaborated by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in consultation with Member States, taking into account the international agreements and declarations in the area of demand reduction that have been elaborated, in particular the Global Programme of Action, and addressing all policies and programmes to all sectors of society;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration of the special session, and to have an efficient

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[30] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[31] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[32] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November–20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[33] Resolution S–20/4 A.

[34] See resolution S–20/4 B.

[35] Resolution S–20/4 C.

[36] Resolution S–20/4 D.

[37] See resolution S–17/2, annex.

collection of reliable data, increase the number of Governments that report updated information on a regular basis, improve the quality of their responses and avoid duplication of activities;

10. *Calls upon* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to mainstream a gender perspective into all its policies, programmes and activities, and requests the Secretariat to integrate a gender perspective into all documentation prepared for the Commission;

11. *Recalls* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995,[38] notes with satisfaction the active participation of youth organizations and youth during the special session, and stresses the importance of their continuing to contribute their experiences and to participate in the decision-making processes, in particular in relation to the elaboration of the action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

12. *Calls upon* States to adopt effective measures to stem the illicit trade in small arms, which, as a result of its close link to the illicit drug trade, is generating extremely high levels of crime and violence within the societies of some States, threatening the national security and economies of those States;

13. *Notes* the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime by the year 2000, within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991–2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

III

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action, as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the efficiency of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control,[39] as a tool to promote the coordination and enhancement of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system;

3. *Urges* the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, including humanitarian organizations, and invites multilateral financial institutions, to include action against the world drug problem in their programming and planning processes, in order to ensure that the integral and balanced strategy which emerged from the special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together is being addressed;

IV

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandate within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[40] the Global Programme of Action,[37] the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together and relevant consensus documents;

2. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

(*a*) To strengthen cooperation with Member States, as well as with United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to provide, on request, assistance in implementing the outcome of the special session, which may include the adjustment of national laws and policies, the development of training programmes and the establishment of mechanisms for data collection and analysis;

(*b*) To strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and with the international financial institutions so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries to implement the outcome of the special session, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed on further progress made in this area;

(*c*) To continue, taking into account the outcome of the special session, to include in its report on illicit traffic in drugs an updated assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means of improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

(*d*) To continue the publication of the *World Drug Report* with comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem and to seek additional extrabudgetary resources for its publication in all official languages;

3. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations activities related to the world drug problem so as to avoid duplication of such activities, strengthen efficiency and accomplish the goals approved by Governments;

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[38] Resolution 50/81, annex.

[39] See A/49/139–E/1994/57.

[40] See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna 17–26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

4. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the Programme by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

5. *Urges* the International Narcotics Control Board to increase efforts to implement all its mandates under international drug control conventions and to continue to cooperate with Governments, including by offering advice and technical support to Member States that request it;

6. *Notes* that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assigning adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996, and emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encourages them to continue to contribute towards strengthening regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the special session;

8. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General,[41] and, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting, requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session and the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/116. Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[42] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[43] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[44] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[45] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[46] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[47]

Recalling the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[48]

Reaffirming the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[49] the International Conference on Population and Development,[50] the World Summit for Social Development,[51] the Fourth World Conference on Women[52] and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,[53] pertaining to the traffic in women and girls,

Recalling its resolution 52/98 of 12 December 1997 on traffic in women and girls,

Welcoming the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted on 17 July 1998 by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court,[54]

Recalling the agreed conclusions on violence against women adopted on 13 March 1998 by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session,[55] Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/30 of 17 April 1998,[56] the recommendations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session, in August 1998,[57] and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice relating to trafficking in women and girls,

Taking note of the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session[58] that the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating of a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime, to be established by the General Assembly, would discuss, *inter alia*, the elaboration of an international instrument addressing trafficking in women and children,

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[41] A/53/382, A/53/383 and A/53/129–E/1998/58.

[42] Resolution 217 A (III).

[43] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[44] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[45] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[46] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[47] Resolution 48/104.

[48] Resolution 317 (IV).

[49] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[50] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[51] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[52] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[53] See A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1.

[54] A/CONF.183/9.

[55] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1), chap. I.

[56] Ibid., *Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[57] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/L.11/Add.1, chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/19, and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/14, sect. VI.B.

[58] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (E/1998/30 and Corr.1) chap. I, sect. B.

Reaffirming that sexual violence and trafficking in women and girls for purposes of economic exploitation, sexual exploitation through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery are serious violations of human rights,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being trafficked to developed countries as well as within and between regions and States, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of young boys,

Welcoming bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, and taking note of the proposed draft convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for the purposes of prostitution of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,[59]

Underlining the importance of systematic data collection in determining the extent and nature of the problem of trafficking in women and girls,

Emphasizing the need for more sustained and coordinated national, subregional, regional, interregional and international action to combat trafficking in women and girls,

Deeply concerned about the unabated use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

Stressing once again the need for Governments to provide standard humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls;[60]

2. *Welcomes* national, regional and international efforts to implement the recommendations of the World Congress against Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children,[61] and calls upon Governments to take further measures in that regard;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the provisions on trafficking in women and girls contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[62] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;[49]

4. *Encourages* Governments to intensify their efforts to implement the policy recommendations and strategies on trafficking in women and girls contained in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, in particular the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others[63] adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session, taking into account the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences in her reports to the Commission at its fifty-third[64] and fifty-fourth[65] sessions, and those of the human rights treaty bodies relating to the traffic in women and girls;

5. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation through information-sharing of experience, best practices and lessons learned through, *inter alia*, consultation mechanisms, such as the regional consultation process organized in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms, to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

9. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

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[59] See South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, document SAARC/Summit.10/CM.20/3.

[60] A/53/409.

[61] *World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, 27–31 August 1996, Final Report of the Congress*, two volumes (Stockholm, Government of Sweden, January 1997).

[62] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[63] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1.

[64] E/CN.4/1997/47 and Add.1–4.

[65] E/CN.4/1998/54 and Add.1.

10. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

11. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking, and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

12. *Invites* Governments to take steps, including witness protection programmes, to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time women have access to social, medical, financial and legal assistance, and protection, as appropriate;

13. *Encourages* Governments to take effective and expeditious measures, particularly the enactment or amendment, if necessary, of domestic legislation to provide appropriate penalties, such as substantial imprisonment, fines and forfeiture, in order to combat all aspects of organized criminal activities related to trafficking at the international level in women and children;

14. *Invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and girls;

15. *Encourages* Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods and to update continuously information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates;

16. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on traffic in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

17. *Invites* Governments, once again, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

18. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[43] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[46] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[44] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees;

19. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue to address, within their respective mandates, the problem of trafficking in women and girls as a priority concern and to recommend, in their reports, measures to combat such phenomena;

20. *Reiterates* its call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addressing the obstacles to the realization of the human rights of women, in particular through her contacts with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to include the traffic in women and girls among her priority concerns;

21. *Welcomes* the initiatives and activities of United Nations bodies and organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in women and girls, and invites them to strengthen their activities in this context;

22. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue to address the issue as part of the integrated follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the problem of trafficking in women and girls based on reports, research and other materials within and outside the United Nations and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/117. Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/99 of 12 December 1997 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, as well as those of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirming also the obligations contained in later human rights instruments, in particular article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women[66] and article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[67] and mindful of article 2, subparagraph (*a*), of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[68]

Recalling the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[69] the International Conference on Population and Development,[70] the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,[71] and the Fourth World Conference on Women[72] pertaining to traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls,

Reaffirming that such practices constitute a definite form of violence against women and girls and a serious form of violation of their human rights,

Expressing concern at the continuing large-scale existence of such practices,

Stressing that the elimination of such practices requires greater efforts and commitment from Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental and community organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitudes are required,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General,[73] which provides encouraging examples of national best practices and international cooperation;

(*b*) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, and encourages them to continue to coordinate their efforts;

(*c*) The work carried out by the Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation of the United Nations Population Fund and the fact that she has been invited to various countries, as well as the establishment, by the United Nations Population Fund, of a trust fund to support her work;

(*d*) The work carried out by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and other non-governmental and community organizations, including women's organizations, in raising awareness of the harmful effects of such practices, in particular of female genital mutilation;

(*e*) The fact that the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the issue of harmful traditional or customary practices at its session in 1998;[74]

2. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries working to achieve the elimination of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions, and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the need for assistance to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field from the international community;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To ratify, if they have not yet done so, the relevant human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[66] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[67] and to respect and implement fully their obligations under such treaties to which they are parties;

(*b*) To implement their international commitments in this field, *inter alia*, under the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[72] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[70] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;[69]

(*c*) To develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, *inter alia*, through appropriate measures against those responsible, and to establish, if they have not done so, a concrete national mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of legislation, law enforcement and national policies;

(*d*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, in particular through education, the dissemination of information, training, the media and local community meetings, in order to achieve the total elimination of these practices;

(*e*) To promote the inclusion of discussion of the empowerment of women and their human rights in primary and secondary education curricula and to address specifically traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls in such curricula and in the training of health personnel;

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[66] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[67] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[68] Resolution 48/104.

[69] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[70] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[71] See A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1.

[72] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[73] A/53/354.

[74] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1).

(*f*) To involve, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders, medical practitioners, women's health and family planning organizations and the media in publicity campaigns, with a view to promoting a collective and individual awareness of the human rights of women and girls and of how harmful traditional or customary practices violate those rights;

(*g*) To explore, through consultations with communities and religious and cultural groups and their leaders, alternatives to harmful traditional or customary practices, in particular where those practices form part of a ritual ceremony or rite of passage;

(*h*) To cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and to respond to her inquiries;

(*i*) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with relevant non-governmental and community organizations, in a joint effort to eradicate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(*j*) To include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty bodies specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation;

(*k*) To address the issue of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls in their national evaluations of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[75]

(*l*) To include specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, in the reports they submit to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in preparation for the high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[76] and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be convened by the General Assembly in the year 2000;

4. *Invites*:

(*a*) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the bodies monitoring the implementation of relevant human rights treaties;

(*b*) The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-third session, to address the subject of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation, during its review of the critical area of concern "Women and health";

(*c*) The Commission on Human Rights to address this subject at its fifty-fifth session, thus allowing a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of these practices on the human rights of women;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To make his report available to relevant meetings within the United Nations system;

(*b*) To include information on the subject of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls in the compilation of updated statistics and indicators on the situation of women and girls around the world, which he is requested to provide by the end of 1999, by issuing, for example, a new volume of *The World's Women*;

(*c*) To make available to the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-fifth session, the outcome of the discussions in the Commission on the Status of Women on this issue, if necessary in the form of an oral report;

(*d*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with a special focus on recent national and international developments.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/118. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/68 of 12 December 1996,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[77] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

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[75] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[76] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[77] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Welcoming the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth,[78] forty-first[79] and forty-second[80] sessions regarding the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[81] agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council[82] on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and Council resolution 1998/26 of 28 July 1998, entitled "Advancement of women: implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development",

Welcoming also the growing number of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[83] which now stands at one hundred and sixty-two,

Taking note of the elaboration and adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its sixteenth session, of general recommendation 23 on women in public life,[84]

Having considered the report of the Committee on its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions,[85]

Expressing concern at the great number of reports overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[86] on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

5. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to give due consideration to the statement regarding reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[87] to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[88]

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretariat on reservations to the Convention;[89]

7. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to those efforts;

9. *Commends* the Committee on its efforts to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention;

10. *Also commends* the Committee for reducing the backlog of reports, *inter alia*, through improved internal methods of work, and notes the efforts of the Committee to continue to improve its internal methods of work;

11. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible so that the amendment may enter into force;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the additional meeting time allowing the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each of three weeks' duration, preceded by a pre-session working group of the Committee;

13. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure adequate financing and staff support for the effective functioning of the Committee, including for the dissemination of information;

14. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

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[78] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6* (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.1.

[79] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1.

[80] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. B.IV.

[81] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[82] A/52/3, chap. IV, para. 4. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1).

[83] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[84] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/52/38/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. A .

[85] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/53/38/Rev.1).

[86] A/53/318.

[87] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/53/38/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. A.

[88] Resolution 217 A (III).

[89] CEDAW/C/1997/4.

Discrimination against Women of the Commission on the Status of Women,[90] and encourages the Working Group to continue its work with a view to completing it at the forty-third session of the Commission;

15. *Encourages* the strengthening of coordination between the Committee and the other human rights treaty bodies, and encourages the human rights treaty bodies to coordinate their activities in monitoring the implementation of human rights instruments for the full enjoyment by women of their human rights;

16. *Invites* the Committee to draw up joint general comments with other treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, on the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights, and invites the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, at their annual meetings, to explore ways and means to facilitate those activities;

17. *Stresses* that a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, including the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities, requires systematic, increased and sustained attention to and implementation of the general recommendations of the Committee, at the request of the General Assembly, throughout the United Nations system;

18. *Welcomes* the submission of reports by specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee;

19. *Commends* the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and others for building women's capacity to understand and use human rights instruments, particularly the Convention;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/119. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[91] of the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

Recalling further its resolution 52/96 of 12 December 1997 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

Welcoming the progress made in improving the representation of women at the D–1 level and above, in particular the achievement of the interim goal set in its resolution 45/239 C of 21 December 1990 of a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D–1 level and above, but concerned that the representation of women at those levels remains significantly low,

Concerned at the incremental pace at which the overall representation of women in the Secretariat has increased and at the decline in the percentages of women promoted to and appointed at the P–5 level,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein,[92] takes note of the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system: a commitment for action, adopted by the Committee in March 1998,[93] and requests the Secretary-General to report in the year 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women, in its capacity as the preparatory committee for the high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[94] and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[91] to be convened by the General Assembly in the year 2000, on progress made to achieve the goals outlined in the statement;

2. *Reaffirms* the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D–1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization, which will include

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[90] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1), annex II.

[91] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[92] A/53/376.

[93] ACC/1998/4, para. 63.

[94] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

full implementation of the special measures outlined in his report;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to implement fully and to monitor the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995–2000)[95] in order to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000, especially at the D–1 level and above;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers are held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys and to pursue good offices on his behalf, especially in matters related to peacekeeping, peace-building, preventive diplomacy and economic and social development, and in operational activities, including resident coordinators, as well as to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that heads of departments and offices develop gender action plans that establish concrete strategies for the achievement of gender balance in individual departments and offices, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution and in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter, so as to ensure, as far as possible, that the appointment and promotion of women will be not less than 50 per cent until the goal of 50/50 gender distribution is met;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through the development of policies for flexible working time, flexible workplace arrangements, child-care and elder-care needs, as well as through the expansion of gender-sensitivity training in all departments and offices;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to develop further the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, and to issue detailed guidelines, based on the results of the comprehensive inter-agency survey;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Focal Point for Women in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to monitor effectively and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

11. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the D–1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to intergovernmental, judicial and expert bodies and encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are under-represented, such as peacekeeping, peace-building and other non-traditional areas;

12. *Also strongly encourages* Member States to identify women candidates for assignment to peacekeeping missions and to improve the representation of women in military and civilian police contingents;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of gender action plans, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/120. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995, 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling also its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/231 of 4 June 1998, in which it decided to convene a high-level plenary review as a special session of the General Assembly to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[96] and the Beijing Declaration[97] and the Platform for Action[98] of the Fourth World Conference on Women, five years after their adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[99] and resolutions 1998/43 of 31 July 1998 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998 on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development,

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[95] A/49/587 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

[96] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[97] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[98] Ibid., annex II.

[99] A/52/3, chap. IV, para. 4. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1).

Reaffirming that the full implementation of the Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and, to that end, recognizing that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in order to achieve gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an essential role in this regard, and bearing in mind that enhanced national efforts and international cooperation are essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming also the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon, and serves as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[100]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, including their secretariats, as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society, towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[97] and the Platform for Action[98] adopted by the Conference, and calls upon them to implement effectively all the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action;

3. *Calls once again upon* States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes to ensure effective implementation of all critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action;

4. *Stresses* that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

5. *Welcomes* the progress achieved, calls for further intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address those issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms, and welcomes, in this context, Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1998/2 of 28 July 1998[101] on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993;[102]

6. *Also welcomes* the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to draw the attention of all senior managers in the United Nations system to Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 and resolution 1998/43 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and urges the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to ensure that managers are held accountable for gender mainstreaming in their areas of responsibility and that gender mainstreaming is systematically integrated into the reform process of the United Nations, including the work of the executive committees;

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[100] A/53/308.

[101] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/53/3 and Corr.1), chap. VI, para. 3.

[102] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

7. *Directs* all its committees and bodies, and draws the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work, in particular in such areas as macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security and legal and political matters;

8. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and, in particular, programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

9. *Reiterates* the request of the Economic and Social Council to the Secretariat to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports, so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation;

10. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, building upon its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and its resolution 1998/43;

11. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the United Nations system to strengthen the role of gender units and gender focal points;

12. *Urges* Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, including by making appropriate budgetary allocations to ensure their effective operation, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to promote women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes;

13. *Notes with appreciation* that many Governments have developed national strategies and action plans, some of them in consultation with non-governmental organizations, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to complete their national action plans as soon as possible, but no later than June 1999, and to submit these plans to the Secretariat;

14. *Encourages* Governments to submit responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the regional commissions, which, together with the national action plans, are an essential contribution to the special session of the General Assembly;

15. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to prepare national evaluations of the implementation of the Platform for Action with the involvement of civil society;

16. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

17. *Calls upon* States to take action to fulfil the commitments for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation made at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

19. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

21. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate sufficient resources for the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

23. *Stresses* that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to making available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

24. *Invites* Member States to encourage non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other institutions to mobilize additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of the Platform for Action in order to achieve gender equality;

25. *Recognizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

26. *Again calls upon* Member States to commit themselves to achieving gender balance by, *inter alia,* aiming at gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums, and by presenting, promoting and appointing women candidates in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations;

27. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat can carry out effectively all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action, play a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming, including through policy advisory services at the request of Governments, in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system, and serve as the secretariat for the special session of the General Assembly by, *inter alia,* providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, *inter alia,* in her role as the Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, towards the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming and towards the achievement of gender balance in the Secretariat and system-wide, and, in that regard, stresses the importance of increasing human and financial resources from all available funding sources;

29. *Takes note* of the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system: a commitment for action, adopted by the Committee in March 1998,[103] in which gender equality was established as a strategic objective of the international community and of the organizations of the United Nations system;

30. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue its cooperation with the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to develop strategies, tools and methodologies, such as gender-sensitive budgeting, to enhance the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in keeping with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/26, to ensure that a gender perspective is integral to all operational activities, is fully integrated into the triennial comprehensive policy review of those activities and that resident coordinators, in the execution of their mandates, fully incorporate a gender perspective, in particular into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences, utilizing fully all the expertise available in the United Nations system;

32. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[104] to include information in their reports on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action;

33. *Notes* the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action, and encourages the strengthening of their cooperation and coordination within their respective mandates;

34. *Encourages* international financial institutions to continue to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women, and invites the Secretary-General to include information on any such steps in his annual report on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

35. *Invites* the World Trade Organization to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including through activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

36. *Reiterates* that the special session, which will take place from 5 to 9 June 2000, should review and appraise progress in implementation, focusing on examples of good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, obstacles and key challenges remaining, and identify further actions and initiatives for achieving gender equality in the next millennium;

37. *Decides* that the special session shall be entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

38. *Encourages* appropriate regional preparatory activities for the special session, *inter alia,* by Governments in cooperation with the regional commissions, and recommends the submission of the results as an input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session, in 2000;

39. *Invites* the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session to propose the agenda (structure and themes) and documentation for the special session, taking into account resolution 52/231, and, at its forty-third session, to focus in particular on the report requested on suggestions for further actions and initiatives that might be considered during the review in order to achieve gender

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[103] ACC/1998/4, para. 63.

[104] Resolution 34/180, annex.

equality, with attention to mainstreaming a gender perspective and to common trends and themes across the twelve critical areas of concern;

40. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-third session a report on suggestions for further actions and initiatives;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide by the end of 1999 a compilation of updated statistics and indicators on the situation of women and girls, including older women and those with special needs, in countries around the world, including by issuing a new volume of *The World's Women*;

42. *Reiterates* that participation in the special session should be at a high political level;

43. *Emphasizes* the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

44. *Recalls* the interim measures put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/298 of 23 July 1997 for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women with a view to their application for the forty-third session, and recommends that the Council extend their application to the forty-third session of the Commission;

45. *Invites* the Commission, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, in March 1999, to recommend to the General Assembly appropriate arrangements for the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session;

46. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council to decide that, in the absence of a recommendation from the Commission at its first meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, in 1998, the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women whose applications for consultative status with the Council are still under consideration, may participate in the sessions of the Commission meeting as the preparatory committee, in 1999 and 2000;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

48. *Decides* to appraise the progress on this question on an annual basis and to retain on the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/121. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1998/211 of 7 May 1998 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee, contained in the note verbale dated 14 October 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[105]

Welcoming the accession of the Republic of Mozambique to the 1951 Convention[106] and the 1967 Protocol[107] relating to the Status of Refugees and its ratification of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969,[108]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from fifty-three to fifty-four States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional member at its organizational session for 1999.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/122. Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994, 50/150 of 21 December 1995, 51/73 of 12 December 1996 and 52/105 of 12 December 1997,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and the most at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

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[105] E/1998/3, annex.

[106] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[107] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[108] Ibid., vol. 1001, No. 14691.

Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Children's Fund in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming their efforts in reunifying family members of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the reunification of family members of refugees,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and noting that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[109] and the 1951 Convention[110] and the 1967 Protocol[111] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[112]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;[113]

3. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

4. *Expresses the hope once again* that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors;

5. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate into its programmes policies that aim at preventing refugee family separation, conscious of the importance of family unity;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

7. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate with the needs and interests of unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

8. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law, and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[114] and related instruments, while bearing in mind resolution 2 adopted at the twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held at Geneva in December 1995, and to respect the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[109] which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

9. *Condemns* all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund, other United Nations organizations and other international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

11. *Encourages* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in his efforts to raise awareness worldwide and to mobilize official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including refugee minors;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to give special attention to the girl-child refugee in his report.

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[109] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[110] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[111] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[112] A/53/325.

[113] A/53/482, annex.

[114] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

53/123. Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995, 51/70 of 12 December 1996 and, in particular, 52/102 of 12 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[115] and that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[116]

Recognizing the ongoing acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the necessity to follow up the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States and the subsequent conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[117]

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support for the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aiming at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action of the Conference,[118]

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building in countries of origin and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Welcoming the contributions of those countries that responded to the 1998 appeal launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, and appreciating this tangible encouragement to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and to further inter-agency cooperation,

Taking note of the positive results emanating from the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference,

Convinced of the necessity of further strengthening practical measures for the achievement of effective implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention[119] and the 1967 Protocol[120] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[115] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[116]

2. *Calls upon* Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to strengthen their efforts and mutual cooperation relating to the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, and welcomes the positive results achieved by them in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference;[118]

3. *Invites* all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention[119] and the 1967 Protocol[120] relating to the Status of Refugees, while welcoming the accession of Turkmenistan to the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* States and interested international organizations, in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[115] A/53/413.

[116] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/53/12).

[117] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A* and corrigendum (A/51/12/Add.1 and Corr.1), sect. III.B; ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/52/12/Add.1), sect. III.B; and ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/53/12/Add.1), sect. III.B.

[118] A/51/341 and Corr.1, appendix.

[119] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[120] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

5. *Invites* international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Invites* the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral and subregional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in the process leading up to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular human rights and refugee protection principles, and to lend high-level political support to ensure progress in its implementation;

8. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to enhance their mutual relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and human rights, development and financial institutions, in order better to address the wide-ranging and complex issues in the Programme of Action;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building civil society, in particular through the development of the non-governmental sector and the development of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Governments of a number of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and notes in this regard the relationship between the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action and the success in promoting civil society, especially in the field of human rights;

10. *Encourages* the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites them to demonstrate stronger support for the process of the multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned and further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

11. *Emphasizes* the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of undertaking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law, including humanitarian law and international human rights standards, to prevent situations that lead to new flows of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. *Decides* to continue examination of the question at its fifty-fourth session.

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9 December 1998

53/124. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/74 of 12 December 1996 and other pertinent resolutions[121] relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[122] and the previous reports[123] containing the comments and views of Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Keeping in mind the importance, in this context, of the role of the United Nations system, including, in particular, the newly established Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat,

Noting with concern the growing number of complex emergencies and humanitarian problems,

Noting the importance of adherence to internationally accepted norms and principles and the need to promote, as required, national and international legislation to meet actual and potential humanitarian challenges,

Bearing in mind that an adequate response to emergency situations can be best ensured through local capacity-building and institution-building,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and other actors to ensure strict adherence to accepted humanitarian norms and principles and to promote national and international legislation that is responsive to actual and potential humanitarian problems;

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[121] Resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988, 45/101 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990, 47/106 of 16 December 1992 and 49/170 of 23 December 1994.

[122] A/53/486.

[123] A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352, A/49/577 and Corr.1 and A/51/454.

4. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to reinforce its activities as described in the report of the Secretary-General[122] and other pertinent documents;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and the non-governmental organizations concerned, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/125. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[124] and the report and conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-ninth session,[125]

Recalling its resolution 52/103 of 12 December 1997,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members whose lives have been endangered in the course of their duties, and deploring the injuries and deaths of staff members as a consequence of generalized as well as targeted violence,

1. *Endorses* the report and conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-ninth session;[125]

2. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees;

3 *Reaffirms* the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[126] and the 1967 Protocol[127] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-six States are now parties to one or both instruments, and welcomes in this regard the decision by the High Commissioner actively to promote accessions to the Convention and the Protocol;

4. *Notes* that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[128] is being commemorated in 1998, and calls upon all States to reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration as a fundamental step towards protection for everyone;

5. *Reaffirms* that, as set out in article 14 of the Declaration, everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, and calls upon all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international standards;

6. *Emphasizes* that refugee protection is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

7. *Stresses* the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, and urges all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate and mobilize resources until durable solutions are found, with a view to reducing the burden borne by States, particularly developing countries, that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees;

8. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, and calls upon all States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

9. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, *inter alia*, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and other appropriate humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

10. *Calls upon* States and all concerned parties to continue to cooperate closely with the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian personnel in performing the functions required under their mandates, to take all possible measures to safeguard their physical security and property, to investigate fully any crime committed against them, to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes and to facilitate the discharge of the mandated functions of the Office of the High Commissioner as well as of other humanitarian organizations;

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[124] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/53/12).

[125] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/53/12/Add.1).

[126] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[127] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[128] Resolution 217 A (III).

11. *Urges* all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity;

12. *Calls upon* all States to promote conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, including conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, and to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant development agencies, and also urges the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with relevant entities, including international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Reiterates* the right of all persons to return to their country of origin, emphasizes in this regard the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum and have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

14. *Acknowledges* the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community, including comprehensive regional approaches, to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, and notes in this regard that capacity-building in countries of origin and countries of asylum can play an important role in addressing the root causes of refugee flows, in strengthening emergency preparedness and response and in providing effective protection and achieving durable solutions;

15. *Urges* States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant organizations, to explore and support fully capacity-building initiatives as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing refugee issues, and to take necessary measures to promote sustainable development and to ensure the success of capacity-building activities, including those which strengthen legal and judicial institutions, strengthen civil society and promote the observance of human rights, the rule of law and accountability, which enhance the capacity of States to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

16. *Notes* the relevance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[129] reaffirms its support for the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in providing humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned, taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations, and emphasizes that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum;

17. *Calls upon* States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and to ensure that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and to strengthen its efforts for the protection of refugee women;

18. *Urges* States and relevant parties to respect and observe principles of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the rights of child and adolescent refugees, notes the particular vulnerability of refugee children to being forcibly exposed to the risks of injury, exploitation and death, particularly in the context of armed conflict, and to abduction with a view to forcing participation in military activities, and urges all States and concerned parties to take all possible measures to protect child and adolescent refugees, including, in particular, from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and to prevent their separation from their families;

19. *Notes* that 1999 has been declared the International Year of Older Persons, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

20. *Recalls* paragraphs 14 to 16 of its resolution 50/152 of 21 December 1995, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons;

21. *Calls upon* all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries with limited resources that, owing to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to

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[129] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are fully met.

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53/126. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/101 of 12 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[130] and that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[131]

Recognizing the need to improve the security of refugees and to maintain the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps and settlements in accordance with international laws, in particular refugee instruments, as well as human rights instruments and humanitarian laws,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts being expended by countries of asylum in accommodating refugees,

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief and assistance programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

Welcoming also decision CM/Dec.412 (LXVIII) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998,[132]

Welcoming further the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa, held on 24 September 1998,[133] and the attention that was given at that meeting to the issue of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa,

Taking note of the memoranda of understanding signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Southern African Development Community in July 1996 on refugees, returnees, displaced persons and undocumented migration in southern Africa and between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in June 1997 on issues concerning refugees and returnees,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling also the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[134] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[135]

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons, primarily by addressing the root causes, and to solutions, including voluntary repatriation,

Recognizing also the positive outcome of the conflict resolution efforts carried out in the subregion by the Economic Community of West African States, in creating a conducive environment for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons,

Emphasizing the urgent need for Governments, especially those of the countries of origin, to address the root causes of the conflicts that precipitate outflows and displacements of refugees,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes regions and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[130] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[131]

2. *Notes with concern* that the declining socio-economic situation, compounded by political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, has led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations, within their mandates, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements;

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[130] A/53/328.

[131] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/53/12).

[132] See A/53/179, annex I.

[133] See S/PV.3931. For the final text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Plenary Meetings*, 3931st meeting.

[134] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

[135] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.

4. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for security, long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

5. *Expresses concern* at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by unlawful expulsion or refoulement or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and well-being of refugees;

6. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and overstretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

7. *Commends* the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation in safety and with dignity and other durable solutions;

8. *Expresses its gratitude* to the international community, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in particular, for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons and to the countries of asylum;

9. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in safety and with dignity and at addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

10. *Reiterates* that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

11. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and other concerned entities to intensify protection activities by, *inter alia*, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

12. *Appeals* to Governments, the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions to facilitate the voluntary return in safety and with dignity and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

13. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees;

14. *Commends* the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and of the Horn of Africa and the Office of the High Commissioner for their initiatives to promote voluntary repatriation in safety and with dignity within the framework of tripartite agreements;

15. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the Organization of African Unity, subregional organizations and all African States to continue to work closely in identifying solutions to all outstanding refugee problems;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

17. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with host Governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the international community in concentrating on the environment and ecosystems of countries of asylum;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

19. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

20. *Urges* the international community to continue to fund the general refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa;

21. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system and, in the context of burden-sharing, to continue to provide needed resources and

operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Africa until a durable solution can be found;

22. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

23. *Requests* all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children and displaced persons, including those with special protection needs;

24. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

25. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, in conjunction with States, to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in respect of asylum, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including refugees in urban areas;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/127. The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/106 of 12 December 1997 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Beijing Declaration[136] and the Platform for Action[137] of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[138] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[139] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[140] the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,[141] the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs adopted at the World Conference on Education for All,[142] the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996,[143] and the conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted by the Commission at its forty-second session,[144] in particular those relating to the girl child,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition, physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices such as incest, early marriage, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned also that girls, in particular adolescent girls, continue to be silent and invisible victims of violence, abuse and exploitation and that some legal systems do not address adequately the vulnerability of girls in the administration of justice, including the need for better protection of child victims and witnesses,

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[136] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[137] Ibid., annex II.

[138] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[139] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[140] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[141] See A/45/625, annex.

[142] *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5–9 March 1990,* Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendices I and II.

[143] A/51/385, annex.

[144] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/1998/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. B.IV.

Stressing that discrimination and neglect of the girl child can initiate a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream,

Deeply concerned that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among the victims most affected and that thus their potential for full development is limited,

Concerned that the girl child has furthermore become a victim of sexually transmitted diseases and the human immunodeficiency virus, which affects the quality of her life and leaves her open to further discrimination,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, *inter alia*, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[145] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[146]

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child[146] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[145] as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments;

2. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child;

3. *Urges* States to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child, the responsibilities, rights and duties of the parents and the evolving capacity of the girl child, in accordance with the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[137] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. *Also urges* States to prepare programmes for the girl child as part of their national action plans in order to implement fully the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

5. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

6. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively:

(*a*) To set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the rights and needs of children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to take into account the rights and particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

(*b*) To take measures to ensure the non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the girl child with disabilities;

(*c*) To generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age for marriage, in particular by providing educational opportunities for girls;

(*d*) To give attention to the rights and needs of adolescent girls, which call for special action for their protection from sexual and economic exploitation and abuse, harmful traditional and cultural practices, teenage pregnancy and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and for the development of life skills and self-esteem, reaffirming that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout the life cycle must begin with the girl child at all ages;

(*e*) To review teaching materials, including textbooks, to promote the self-esteem of women and girls through positive self-images and to revise these materials, highlighting the effective role of women in society, including in decision-making, development, culture, history, sports and other social, political and economic endeavours;

(*f*) To take measures to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote gender-sensitive socialization of boys and girls from early childhood, with the aim of achieving gender equality, development and peace within the family and the community;

(*g*) To ensure the equal participation of girls and young women on the basis of non-discrimination and as partners with boys and young men in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and the implementation of action aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

(*h*) To strengthen and reorient health education and health services, in particular primary health-care programmes, including in sexual and reproductive health, and to design quality health programmes that meet the physical and mental needs of girls and attend to the needs of young expectant and nursing mothers;

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[145] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[146] Resolution 44/25, annex.

(*i*) To make information and counselling widely available to adolescent girls and boys, especially on human relationships, reproductive and sexual health, sexually transmitted diseases and adolescent pregnancy, in a manner that is confidential and easily accessible, and to emphasize the equal responsibility of girls and boys;

(*j*) To provide adequate infrastructure and support services to respond to the needs of the survivors of violence against women and girls and to assist them towards full recovery and reintegration into society;

(*k*) To provide gender-sensitive training for personnel in the administration of justice, law enforcement agencies, security, social and health-care services, schools and migration authorities and to develop guidelines to ensure appropriate police and prosecutorial responses in cases of violence against women and girls;

7. *Urges* States to enact and enforce strictly laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and enforce strictly laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

8. *Also urges* States to eliminate all barriers so as to enable girls, without exception, to develop their full potential and skills through equal access to education and training;

9. *Urges* States, educational institutions and the United Nations system to provide gender-sensitive training for school administrators, parents and all members of the school community;

10. *Encourages* States to consider ways and means to ensure the continuing education and training of married women, pregnant women and young mothers and to protect them from discrimination;

11. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of children, in particular to protect girls from rape and other forms of sexual abuse and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls and taking into account the special needs of the girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Urges* States parties to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking and child prostitution;

13. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations;

14. *Also urges* States to implement measures to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

15. *Requests* all States to implement, on an urgent basis, measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;[143]

16. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and the full respect for and enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, *inter alia*, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate information materials on these rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

17. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage efforts by civil society and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to establish community-based groups or local committees that could assist with the safety and welfare of children;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child in the implementation of the outcomes of all recent global conferences, in particular the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996–2001;[147]

19. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to pay particular attention to the human rights of the girl child;

20. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights to adopt regularly and

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[147] E/1993/43, annex.

systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

21. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

22. *Also calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to implement fully, as appropriate, the conclusions on the girl child adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session.[144]

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/128. The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/106 and 52/107 of 12 December 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/76 of 22 April 1998,[148]

Reaffirming that the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Reaffirming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,[149] notably the solemn commitment to give high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, and reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[150] which, *inter alia*, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to combat exploitation and abuse of children, such as female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution and child pornography, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

Underlining the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes relating to children,

Welcoming the fact that the special situation of children has been taken into account in the conclusion of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, guided by the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[151]

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of poverty, inadequate social and economic conditions aggravated by the current international financial crisis in an increasingly globalized world economy, pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance and disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Recognizing that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of the rights of the child, that stronger political commitment is needed and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action,

Recommending that, within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and where their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and welcoming the rights-based approach adopted by the United Nations Children's Fund and the steps taken further to increase system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recalling the important open debate and the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Council on 29 June 1998 on the item entitled "Children and armed conflict",[152]

Stressing the need to strengthen partnerships between Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations,

I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. *Welcomes* the unprecedented number of one hundred and ninety-one States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[151] as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

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[148] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[149] A/45/625, annex.

[150] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[151] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[152] S/PRST/1998/18; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1998.*

2. *Once again urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence by the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children and of the entry into force of the Convention;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,[153] and recognizes its important role in creating awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention and in providing recommendations to States parties on its implementation;

4. *Invites* the Committee to enhance further the constructive dialogue with the States parties to the Convention and the transparent and effective functioning of the Committee;

5. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee held a thematic discussion on the rights of children living in a world with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and urges Governments, in cooperation with United Nations bodies and organizations, in particular the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, to adopt all appropriate measures with a view to the realization of their rights;

6. *Reaffirms* the rights of all children affected by pandemics, particularly those living in a world with HIV/AIDS, to have access to health, education and social services and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, abuse or neglect;

7. *Welcomes* the increased attention given by the Committee to the realization of the highest attainable standards of health and access to health care, and also welcomes World Health Assembly resolution WHA51.22 of 16 May 1998 on the health of children and adolescents;[154]

8. *Invites* States parties, when reporting to the Committee on the implementation of article 7 of the Convention, to provide information, in accordance with the reporting guidelines of the Committee, on their levels of birth registration and other relevant data in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, and takes note of the plan of action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the steps taken to ensure temporary support to the Committee within the framework of the plan of action;

10. *Calls upon* States parties to implement fully the Convention, to cooperate closely with the Committee and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee;

11. *Expresses its concern* at the great number of reservations to the Convention, and urges States parties to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing other reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

12. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible, in order for the amendment to enter into force, increasing the membership of the Committee from ten to eighteen experts;

13. *Also calls upon* States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education shall be directed, *inter alia*, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

14. *Further calls upon* States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42 of the Convention, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike, and also calls upon States parties to encourage training on the rights of the child for those involved in activities concerning children, for example through the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights;

15. *Stresses* that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children, as emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General[155] on progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 and in his report on progress on the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children;[156]

16. *Encourages* the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

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[153] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/53/41).

[154] See WHA51/1998/REC/1.

[155] A/51/256.

[156] A/53/186.

17. *Welcomes* the positive results of the cooperation between the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Children's Fund, supports the rights-based approach adopted by the Fund, and encourages its further development;

II

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

1. *Welcomes* the increased attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the equal enjoyment by children with disabilities of the rights of the child, and takes note of the thematic discussion held in 1997 on the rights of children with disabilities, as well as the recommendations adopted;[157]

2. *Also welcomes* the decision by the Committee to set up a working group to elaborate a plan of action for the future work of the Committee on behalf of children with disabilities;

3. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities and to develop and enforce legislation against discrimination against children with disabilities;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to promote for children with disabilities a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, including effective access to education and health services;

5. *Emphasizes* the right to education as a human right, and calls upon States to make education accessible to children with special educational needs in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development and to adopt an integrated approach to providing adequate support and appropriate education for such children;

6. *Recognizes* the work done by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, encourages him to continue to pay special attention to children with disabilities, and welcomes the invitation by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/20 of 21 July 1997, to enhance cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and the Committee;

7. *Calls upon* all States, in complying with their reporting obligations to the Committee under paragraph 1 of article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[151] to include, in accordance with the guidelines of the Committee,[158] information on the situation and the needs of children with disabilities, including disaggregated data, and on the measures taken to ensure to such children their enjoyment of the rights under the Convention;

III

PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF THE SALE OF CHILDREN AND OF THEIR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

1. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[159] which this year focuses on the issues of sale and trafficking of children, for all purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or otherwise, and expresses its support for her work;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to enable her to discharge her mandate fully;

3. *Supports* the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing that work before the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[151]

4. *Invites* Governments, relevant specialized agencies, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the relevant special rapporteur and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide comments, *inter alia*, on the scope of the optional protocol, prior to the next session of the working group;

5. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention to fulfil their obligation under article 34 of the Convention, and also calls upon all States to support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting effective national, bilateral and multilateral measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation and abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography;

6. *Calls upon* States to criminalize all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including commercial sexual exploitation, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children victims of this practice are not penalized;

7. *Also calls upon* States to enact and enforce appropriate laws and to design and implement policies and programmes to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism;

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[157] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/53/41), para. 1426.

[158] CRC/C/58.

[159] A/53/311, annex.

8. *Further calls upon* States to review and revise, where appropriate, laws, policies, programmes and practices to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including commercial sexual exploitation;

9. *Requests* all States to implement, on an urgent basis, measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996;[160]

10. *Encourages* regional and interregional efforts, such as the Child Welfare Experts' Conference of the Asia-Europe Meeting, held in London from 6 to 8 October 1998, to follow up the implementation of the Agenda for Action of the Congress, with the objective of identifying best practices and issues requiring particularly urgent action;

11. *Encourages* Governments to consult and facilitate the active participation of children who have been victims of sexual exploitation or abuse in the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse;

12. *Stresses* the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through preventive and enforcement measures targeting customers or individuals who sexually exploit or sexually abuse children;

13. *Requests* States to increase cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks trafficking in children;

14. *Also requests* States to increase cooperation and concerted action, at the national, regional and international levels, to enforce measures to combat effectively all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, in particular paedophilia, child sex tourism, child prostitution and child pornography, in particular its dissemination through the Internet;

15. *Urges* States, in cases of child sex tourism, to develop or strengthen and implement laws to criminalize the acts of nationals of the countries of origin when committed against children in the countries of destination, to ensure that a person who exploits a child for sexual abuse purposes in another country is prosecuted by competent national authorities, either in the country of origin or in the country of destination, to strengthen laws and law enforcement, including confiscation and seizure of assets and profits and other sanctions, against those who commit sexual crimes against children in countries of destination and to share relevant data;

16. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to allocate appropriate resources for comprehensive and gender-sensitive programmes to rehabilitate physically and psychologically child victims of trafficking and of any form of sexual exploitation and abuse and to take all appropriate measures to promote their full recovery and social reintegration;

IV

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the numerous damaging effects of armed conflicts on children, and emphasizes the need for the world community to focus increased attention on this serious problem with a view to bringing it to an end;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,[161] and expresses its support for his work for children affected by armed conflict, in particular his efforts to raise worldwide awareness and to mobilize official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through field visits, with the consent of the State concerned, in order to promote respect for the rights and needs of children in conflict and post-conflict situations;

3. *Notes* that, without adequate human resources, the effectiveness of the Special Representative will continue to be severely constrained, calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary support is made available expeditiously to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his mandate, encourages the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide support to the Special Representative, and calls upon States and other institutions to provide voluntary contributions to the Special Representative;

4. *Calls upon* the Special Representative and all relevant parts of the United Nations system to continue to develop a concerted approach to the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict, in order to place this issue within the mainstream of United Nations policy-making and programme activities and to increase cooperation within their respective mandates, including, as appropriate, in the follow-up to the recommendations and field visits of the Special Representative;

5. *Invites* Governments, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate with the Special Representative, taking into account his recommendations, and, in this context, welcomes the initiative of the Special Representative for a series of regional symposia on children and armed conflict, the first of which was held in

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[160] A/51/385, annex.

[161] A/53/482.

London in June 1998, with the others being planned for Tokyo and for cities in other regions;

6. *Welcomes* the information provided by the Special Representative in his report on field missions and country initiatives, calls upon Governments and other parties in the countries concerned to implement the commitments they have undertaken, and invites them to consider carefully and to address the recommendations of the Special Representative;

7. *Invites* the Special Representative to continue to include in his reports information on his field visits, including recommendations and, as appropriate, commitments obtained as well as follow-up to them;

8. *Invites* all States to accede to relevant international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, and urges them to implement those instruments to which they are parties;

9. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law, and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[162] and the additional protocols thereto of 1977;[163]

10. *Urges* States and all other parties to armed conflict to adopt all necessary measures to end the use of children as soldiers and to ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament;

11. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant humanitarian organizations to give priority to the respect for the rights of the child in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, and to integrate those rights into all humanitarian and development activities, including emergency relief operations, country programmes and field operations aimed at promoting peace, preventing and resolving conflicts and implementing peace agreements;

12. *Urges* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, so as to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting children;

13. *Urges* States to ensure that effective measures are taken for the rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of children affected by armed conflict, child soldiers, victims of landmines and other weapons and victims of gender-based violence, *inter alia*, through adequate education and training, and invites the international community to assist in this endeavour;

14. *Stresses* the importance of promoting and supporting local capacities to address at the local level, including through advocacy, the issue of children and armed conflict;

15. *Underlines* the importancethat relevant measures to ensure respect for the rights of the child in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration be included in emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

16. *Stresses* the urgent need to raise the current human rights standards set by article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[151] supports the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflict and the task given to the chairperson of the working group by the Commission in its resolution 1998/76[148] to undertake broad informal consultations with a view to presenting a progress report to the working group at its next meeting, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

17. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to bring to an end the use of children as soldiers, and, in this context, recognizes the contribution of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and recalls the qualification as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of the conscription, enlistment or use to participate actively in hostilities of child soldiers,[164] which will contribute towards making it possible to end impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes;

18. *Notes with concern* the impact of small arms and light weapons on children in situations of armed conflict, in particular as a result of their illicit production and traffic, and calls upon States to address this problem;

19. *Welcomes* increased international efforts in various forums with respect to anti-personnel mines, recognizes the positive effect on children of those efforts, and, in this regard, takes due note of the entry into force on 1 March 1999 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[165] and its implementation by those States that become parties to it, as well as of the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[166] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons

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[162] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[163] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[164] See A/CONF.183/9, art. 8.

[165] See CD/1478.

[166] See CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[167] and its implementation by those States that become parties to it;

20. *Calls upon* States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support national and international mine action efforts, including by continuing to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, and to take further action to promote gender- and age-appropriate mine-awareness programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number and the plight of child victims;

21. *Reaffirms* that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide, as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[168] and calls upon all States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from all acts of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and forced pregnancy, to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

22. *Condemns* the abduction of children in situations of armed conflict, and urges States, international organizations and other concerned parties to take all appropriate measures to secure the unconditional release of all abducted children;

23. *Recommends* that whenever sanctions are imposed their impact on children be assessed and monitored and that humanitarian exceptions be child-focused and formulated with clear guidelines for their application;

24. *Recalls* the importance of preventive measures such as early warning systems, preventive diplomacy and education for peace to prevent conflicts and their negative impact on the rights of the child, and urges Governments and the international community to promote sustainable human development;

25. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in the training and gender-sensitized education programmes of their armed forces, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, in particular women and children;

26. *Invites* Member States and relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to consider the issue of how the impact of armed conflict on children can best be integrated into events designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children and of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

V

REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

1. *Urges* Governments to pay particular attention to the situation of refugee and internally displaced children by continuing to design and improve the implementation of policies and programmes for their care and well-being with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and international humanitarian organizations;

2. *Calls upon* States and United Nations bodies, in recognizing the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children, to protect both their safety and their developmental needs, including health, education and psycho-social rehabilitation, and expresses its concern about adolescents in refugee camps, in particular girls, who are at risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children, and calls upon all States and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure the early identification and registration of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children, to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification and to continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children;

4. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflicts to recognize the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children to the damaging effects of such conflicts, stresses the special vulnerability of child-headed households, and calls upon Governments and United Nations bodies to give these situations urgent attention, to enhance protection and assistance mechanisms and to involve women and youth in the design, delivery and monitoring of measures taken to this effect;

5. *Notes* the adoption by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[169] and invites the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to pay special attention to the situation of internally displaced children in his work and to continue to work closely with the Emergency Relief Coordinator and all agencies and organizations involved;

VI

ELIMINATION OF THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOUR

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is

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[167] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[168] Resolution 260 A (III).

[169] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

likely to be hazardous to or interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

2. *Welcomes* the measures taken by Governments to eliminate the exploitation of child labour, while recalling the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour,[170] and calls upon relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

3. *Also welcomes* the recent holding of various international conferences on various forms of child labour;

4. *Further welcomes* the efforts by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the area of child labour, takes note of its recommendations,[153] and encourages the Committee as well as other relevant human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, to continue to monitor this growing problem when examining reports of States parties;

5. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of all forms of exploitative child labour, and urges them, as a matter of priority, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

6. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization concerning the abolition of forced labour and the minimum age for employment, including for particularly hazardous work for children, and to implement those conventions;

7. *Encourages* the negotiations in the International Labour Organization of a new convention on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and calls upon States to support actively a prompt and successful conclusion in 1999;

8. *Calls upon* all States to set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards, for ensuring the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, enacting legislation necessary to implement their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[151] and International Labour Organization standards ensuring the protection of working children;

9. *Recognizes* that primary education is one of the main instruments for reintegrating child workers, and calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and to ensure that all children have access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour;

10. *Welcomes*, in this context, the appointment of a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on the right to education, and recognizes the role that the Special Rapporteur could play in the efforts of States, in particular in the field of primary education;

11. *Calls upon* all States to assess and examine systematically, in close cooperation with international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, the magnitude, nature and causes of the exploitation of child labour and to develop and implement strategies for combating these practices, with a specific emphasis on the situation of girls, their right to education and access to schools on an equal basis with boys, in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

12. *Calls upon* all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child, including the exploitation of child labour;

VII

THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN LIVING AND/OR WORKING ON THE STREETS

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of children living and/or working on the streets and at the continuing growth in incidents and reports worldwide of such children being affected by serious crime, drug trafficking and abuse, violence and prostitution;

2. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to tackle this multifaceted problem;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to the problems of children living and/or working on the streets, including by helping to alleviate the poverty of such children, their families or guardians, by taking measures to ensure their reintegration into society and by providing, *inter alia*, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education, taking into account that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

4. *Emphasizes* that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[151] and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in efforts to deal with this problem, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights treaty monitoring bodies continue to give attention to it when examining the reports of States parties;

5. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life, to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of children living and/or working on the streets, to

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[170] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1993/79, annex.

combat torture and violence against them, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to ensure strict compliance with the Convention and other relevant human rights instruments, including the requirement that legal and juridical processes respect the rights of the child;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of children living and/or working on the streets, and encourages States parties to the Convention, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to take full account of the particular needs and rights of such children and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving their situation;

VIII

Decides:

(*a*) To request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in the present resolution;

(*b*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

(*c*) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of the child".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/129. International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/108 of 12 December 1997 and previous resolutions on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,[171] the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations system, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;[172]

2. *Affirms its conviction* of the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people and its conviction that the development of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems, recommends for these purposes that the United Nations University, as a follow-up to the planned workshop for research and higher education institutions, as outlined in Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/32 of 11 April 1997[173] and 1998/13 of 9 April 1998,[174] consider the possibility of sponsoring, in each region, one or more existing institutions of higher education as centres of excellence and the diffusion of expertise, *inter alia*, by conducting relevant studies, and invites the Commission to recommend appropriate means of implementation;

4. *Notes* that the programme of activities of the Decade may be reviewed and updated throughout the Decade and that, at the mid-point of the Decade in 1999, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should review the results of the activities in order to identify obstacles to the achievement of the goals of the Decade and to recommend solutions for overcoming such obstacles;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

(*a*) To continue to promote the objectives of the Decade, taking into account, in the fulfilment of her functions, the special concerns of indigenous people;

(*b*) To proceed with the organization, from within existing resources and voluntary contributions, of the workshop for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues in education, in consultation with indigenous people and the relevant United Nations bodies, which the Government of Costa Rica has offered to host in 1999;

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[171] Resolution 50/157, annex.

[172] A/53/310.

[173] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[174] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

(*c*) To give due regard to the dissemination, from within existing resources and voluntary contributions, of information on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people and, in that context, to consider the possibility of organizing projects, special events, exhibitions and other activities targeting the public, in particular young people;

(*d*) To submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade;

6. *Reaffirms* the adoption of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people as a major objective of the Decade, and underlines the importance of effective participation by indigenous representatives in the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995;[175]

7. *Also reaffirms*, among the objectives of the Decade listed in the programme of activities, the consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

8. *Urges* Governments to participate actively in the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group that the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/20 of 9 April 1998[174] decided to establish from within existing overall United Nations resources, which is to meet for five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

9. *Encourages* Governments to support the Decade by:

(*a*) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(*b*) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters that affect them;

(*c*) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

(*d*) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(*e*) Contributing, together with other donors, to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in order to assist indigenous representatives in participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, the open-ended inter-sessional working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people and the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group charged with elaborating and considering further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

(*f*) Considering contributing, as appropriate, to the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, in support of the goals of the Decade;

(*g*) Identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

10. *Invites* United Nations financial and developmental institutions, operational programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(*a*) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including through the preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(*b*) To launch special projects, through appropriate channels and in cooperation with indigenous people, to strengthen their community-level initiatives and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among indigenous people and other relevant experts;

(*c*) To designate focal points for coordination of activities related to the Decade with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

and commends those institutions, programmes and agencies that have already done so;

11. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant world conferences, namely, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

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[175] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

12. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/130. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/131 of 13 December 1985, establishing the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, and 50/156 of 21 December 1995, in which it decided that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995[176] with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, taking into consideration the draft declaration annexed to resolution 1994/45 of 26 August 1994 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights,[177]

Recalling also that one of the objectives of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is to consider the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/20 of 9 April 1998,[178] as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1998/247 of 30 July 1998, in which the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to meet for five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system,

Taking note also of the provisions in Commission resolution 1998/20 regarding the participation of organizations of indigenous people in the ad hoc working group,

Recognizing the desirability of assisting organizations of indigenous people in participating in the ad hoc working group,

1. *Decides* that the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/20, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1998/247;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States and to invite them to consider contributing to the Fund.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/131. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and its resolutions on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[179] most recently resolutions 51/80 of 12 December 1996 and 52/110 of 12 December 1997,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[180] in particular section II.B of the Declaration, relating to equality, dignity and tolerance,

Reiterating the need to intensify the struggle to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination throughout the world, especially its most brutal forms,

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, in which it decided to convene a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance no later than the year 2001,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[181] and of agreed conclusions 1998/2 on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

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[176] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[177] See E/CN.4/1995/2–E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/56, chap. II, sect. A.

[178] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[179] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[180] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[181] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Action,[182] adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 28 July 1998,

Reiterating the importance of the Convention, which is one of the most widely accepted human rights instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations,

Mindful of the importance of the contributions of the Committee to the effective implementation of the Convention and to the efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin,

Noting that the reports submitted by States parties under the Convention contain, *inter alia*, information about the causes of, as well as measures to combat, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Calling upon States that have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto,

Emphasizing the obligation of all States parties to the Convention to take legislative, judicial and other measures in order to secure full implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, in which it welcomed the decision, taken on 15 January 1992 by the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[183] to amend paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention and to add a new paragraph, as paragraph 7 of article 8, with a view to providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations, and reiterating its deep concern that the amendment to the Convention has not yet entered into force,

Stressing the importance of enabling the Committee to function smoothly and to have all necessary facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 4 of article 10 of the Convention regarding the location of the meetings of the Committee and the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 8 regarding the composition of the Committee,

I

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions;[184]

2. *Commends* the Committee for its work with regard to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[179] especially the examination of reports under article 9 and action on communications under article 14 of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to fulfil their obligation, under paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Convention, to submit their periodic reports on measures taken to implement the Convention in due time;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that a great number of reports are overdue and continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention, and encourages the Secretariat to extend technical assistance to those States whose reports are seriously overdue, upon their request, in the preparation of the reports;

5. *Commends* the Committee on its continuing efforts to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention, and notes its continuing efforts to improve its working methods;

6. *Also commends* the Committee for its continuing contribution to the prevention of racial discrimination, and welcomes its relevant action thereon;

7. *Encourages* the Committee to continue to contribute fully to the implementation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its revised Programme of Action,[185] including by continuing to collaborate with the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, as well as by cooperating, as appropriate, with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

8. *Welcomes and encourages* the cooperation and exchange of information between the Committee and relevant structures and mechanisms of the United Nations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with the General Assembly and the States parties to the Convention;

9. *Takes note* of the initial suggestions made by the Committee regarding the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and invites the Committee to give high priority to the preparatory process for the World Conference, to present to the Commission on Human Rights, which will act as the preparatory committee for the Conference, its contribution to the objectives of the Conference, including the undertaking of a series of studies, and to participate actively in the preparatory process and at the Conference itself;

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[182] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/53/3 and Corr.1), chap. VI, para. 3.

[183] See CERD/SP/45, annex.

[184] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/53/18).

[185] Resolution 49/146, annex.

10. *Also takes note* of Committee decisions 7 (53) and 8 (53) of 19 August 1998[186] regarding organizational matters, authorizes the Secretary-General to extend, on a temporary basis, the 1999 and 2000 summer sessions of the Committee by five working days, and decides to consider the two decisions further at its fifty-fifth session;

II

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;[187]

12. *Expresses its profound concern* about the fact that a number of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination have still not fulfilled their financial obligations, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General, and strongly appeals to all States parties that are in arrears to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention;

13. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of the Committee and to notify the Secretary-General expeditiously in writing of their agreement to the amendment, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 15 January 1992,[183] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992 and further reiterated at the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties on 16 January 1996;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements and appropriate means and to provide the necessary support, including an adequate level of Secretariat assistance, in order to ensure the functioning of the Committee and to enable it to cope with its increasing amount of work;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite those States parties to the Convention that are in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

III

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[188]

17. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the number of States that have ratified the Convention or acceded thereto;

18. *Reaffirms once again its conviction* that ratification of or accession to the Convention on a universal basis and the implementation of its provisions are necessary for the realization of the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and for action beyond the Decade;

19. *Urges* all States that have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto;

20. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention and to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible in order to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the objective and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

21. *Requests* the States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention;

22. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the reports of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee and the status of the Convention.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/132. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination and its conviction that racism and racial discrimination constitute a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[189]

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[186] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/53/18), chap. I, sect. F, para. 14.

[187] A/53/255.

[188] A/53/256.

[189] Resolution 217 A (III).

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[190] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,[191]

Noting the efforts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since its establishment in 1970 to promote the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Recalling the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978[192] and in 1983,[193]

Recalling also the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[194] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance and sensitivity of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which, respectively, it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,

Noting with grave concern, that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two previous Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase,

Recognizing both the challenges and the opportunities in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in an increasingly globalized world,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, *inter alia*, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Noting with concern also that the dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda is also being channelled through new communication technologies, including such computer networks as the Internet,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General[195] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony and for the effective enforcement of such legislation,

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[196]

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

1. *Declares* that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world, and expresses its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate, by all available means, racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third

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[190] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[191] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, No. 6193.

[192] See *Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14–25 August 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2).

[193] See *Report of the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1–12 August 1983* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4 and corrigendum).

[194] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[195] A/53/305.

[196] Resolution 45/158, annex.

Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[195] and regrets that the detailed report on the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, requested for presentation to the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, was not presented;

3. *Urges* all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by constantly adapting the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accord a high priority to the follow-up to programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination consistent with the need to ensure the effective preparation of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[196] as a matter of priority;

7. *Commends* all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination, especially the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[190] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education;[191]

8. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the objective and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

9. *Encourages* the mass media to promote ideas of non-discrimination, respect, tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

10. *Affirms* its determination to combat violence stemming from intolerance on the basis of ethnicity, which it considers an issue of particular gravity;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities and those of migrant workers in the fields of education, training and employment and to submit, *inter alia*, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination;

12. *Regrets* the continued lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action, reflected in the fact that very few of the activities planned for the period 1994–1998 were carried out;

13. *Also regrets* that the contributions made by the international community to the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination remain below the level required, and once again requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including through the United Nations regular budget and extrabudgetary sources;

14. *Welcomes* the convening, at Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, of a seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[197] and invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider its recommendations for responsible use of the Internet;

15. *Recalls* its repeated appeals and those of the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to serve as a focal point for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade, welcomes the formation of a racism project team, and requests the High Commissioner to continue to work towards full establishment of such a mechanism;

16. *Urges* the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

17. *Requests* States and international organizations to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

18. *Strongly underlines* the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating an awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and, in this regard, renews its invitation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular

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[197] E/CN.4/1998/77/Add.2.

emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

19. *Considers* that all parts of the Programme of Action should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Third Decade;

20. *Commends* the efforts by donors that have made contributions to the Trust Fund, but notes that these contributions are not sufficient to meet the objectives of the Third Decade;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to accord high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action, and, in this regard, also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 1998–1999;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, while programming the regular budget for the biennium 2000–2001, to make provision for financing the activities of the Programme of Action from the United Nations regular budget as a vital contribution to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

23. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action;

25. *Warmly calls upon* all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and interested non-governmental organizations to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

26. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund, and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

II

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

27. *Reaffirms* the decisions adopted in its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997 related to the convening, the definition of objectives and the guidelines for the preparatory process of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

28. *Takes note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998,[198] in which the Commission decided to create an open-ended working group to meet during its fifty-fifth session in order to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and possible forwarding to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference at its first session;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To present a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at both its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions on the progress achieved in the preparatory process of the World Conference;

(*b*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report encompassing the final outcome of the World Conference;

(*c*) To designate the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as Secretary-General of the World Conference, who, in that capacity, will assume the main responsibility for the preparations for the Conference;

(*d*) To consider providing the necessary financial and technical assistance for the convening of regional preparatory meetings;

30. *Requests* the High Commissioner:

(*a*) To carry out consultations with States aimed at determining the date and venue for the World Conference and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session on the results thereof;

(*b*) To continue to devise and implement, with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing public opinion to the importance and the objectives of the World Conference, to publish in all the official languages of the United Nations an information pamphlet to be made available to non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public and to inform the Preparatory Committee of developments in this regard;

31. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to present, through the Economic and Social Council, before the end of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, a concrete proposal on the date and venue of the World Conference;

32. *Invites* States and regional organizations to set up at the national or regional level a coordination structure

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[198] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

responsible for launching and promoting preparations for the World Conference, and especially for sensitizing national public opinion to the importance and the objectives of the Conference;

33. *Urges* the High Commissioner to help States, upon request, and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference;

34. *Requests* the regional preparatory meetings to present to the Preparatory Committee, through the High Commissioner, reports on the results of their deliberations, with concrete and pragmatic recommendations aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which will be duly reflected in the texts of the draft final documents of the World Conference, to be prepared by the Committee;

35. *Requests*, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26, Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and other human rights mechanisms to participate actively both in the preparatory process of the World Conference, including by assisting the Preparatory Committee, again in accordance with Commission resolution 1998/26, by, *inter alia*, undertaking reviews and studies and submitting recommendations concerning the Conference and the preparations therefor, through the Secretary-General, to the Preparatory Committee, and in the Conference itself;

36. *Stresses* the importance of systematically taking a gender perspective into account throughout the preparations for and in the outcome of the World Conference;

III

PROCLAMATION OF THE YEAR 2001 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOBILIZATION AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

37. *Decides* to observe the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at drawing the world's attention to the objectives of the World Conference and giving new momentum to the political commitment to the elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

IV

GENERAL

38. *Also decides* to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of high priority at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/133. Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/109 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998,[199]

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in particular the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[200] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Aware that racism, as one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies, requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Having examined the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[201] including its conclusions and recommendations,

Deeply concerned that, despite continued efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as acts of violence, persist and even grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Deeply concerned also that those advocating racism and racial discrimination misuse new communication technologies, including the Internet, to disseminate their repugnant views,

Noting that the use of such technologies can also contribute to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Conscious of the fundamental difference between, on the one hand, racism and racial discrimination as governmental policy or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity and, on the other hand, other manifestations of

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[199] Ibid.

[200] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[201] See A/53/269.

racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that are increasingly visible in segments of many societies and are perpetrated by individuals or groups, some of which manifestations are directed against migrant workers and members of their families,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the responsibility of Governments for safeguarding and protecting the rights of individuals residing in their territory against racist or xenophobic crimes perpetrated by individuals or groups,

Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its general recommendation XV (42) of 17 March 1993[202] on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[203] holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[204] and in article 5 of the Convention,

Noting also that the reports that the States parties submit under the Convention contain, *inter alia*, information about the causes of, as well as measures to combat, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Conscious that impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes,

Particularly alarmed at the rise of racist and xenophobic ideas in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large,

Noting that the Special Rapporteur will continue to pay attention to the rise of racist and xenophobic ideas in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large,

Emphasizing the importance of creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[201] and expresses its support for the continuation of his work;

2. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue his exchange of views with Member States, relevant mechanisms, related United Nations organs and the specialized agencies in order to further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

3. *Commends* the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its contribution to the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[203] which contributes to the fight against contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. *Affirms* that acts of racist violence against others stemming from racism do not constitute expressions of opinion but rather offences;

5. *Declares* that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

6. *Expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular all racist violence, and related acts of random and indiscriminate violence;

7. *Also expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons that attempt to justify or promote racism and racial discrimination in any form;

8. *Expresses its profound concern about and condemnation* of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families, persons belonging to minorities and members of vulnerable groups in many societies;

9. *Encourages* all States to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge of and tolerance and respect for foreign cultures, peoples and countries;

10. *Recognizes* that the increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in various parts of the world requires a more integrated and effective approach on the part of the relevant mechanisms of United Nations human rights machinery;

11. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eradicate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

12. *Calls upon* all States to review and, where necessary, revise their immigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants which are inconsistent with relevant international human rights instruments;

13. *Categorically deplores* the misuse of print, audio-visual and electronic media and new communication technologies, including the Internet, to incite violence motivated by racial hatred;

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[202] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/48/18), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[203] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[204] Resolution 217 A (III).

14. *Recognizes* that Governments should implement and enforce appropriate and effective legislation to prevent acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

15. *Calls upon* all Governments and intergovernmental organizations, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to supply relevant information to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to fulfil his mandate;

16. *Commends* non-governmental organizations for the action that they have taken against racism and racial discrimination and for the continuous support and assistance that they have provided to the victims of racism and racial discrimination;

17. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur with a view to enabling him to fulfil his mandate, including the examination of incidents of contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, *inter alia*, against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, Negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/134. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[205] as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,[206] thirty-seventh,[207] thirty-eighth,[208] thirty-ninth,[209] fortieth,[210] forty-first,[211] forty-second,[212] forty-third,[213] forty-fourth,[214] forty-fifth,[215] forty-sixth,[216] forty-seventh,[217] forty-eighth,[218] forty-ninth,[219] fiftieth,[220] fifty-first,[221] fifty-second,[222] fifty-third[223] and fifty-fourth[224] sessions,

Reaffirming its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987, 43/105 of 8 December 1988, 44/80 of 8 December 1989, 45/131 of 14 December 1990, 46/88 of 16 December 1991, 47/83 of 16 December 1992, 48/93 of

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[205] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[206] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

[207] Ibid., *1981, Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

[208] Ibid., *1982, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

[209] Ibid., *1983, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

[210] Ibid., *1984, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[211] Ibid., *1985, Supplement No. 2* (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[212] Ibid., *1986, Supplement No. 2* (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[213] Ibid., *1987, Supplement No. 5* and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[214] Ibid., *1988, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[215] Ibid., *1989, Supplement No. 2* (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

[216] Ibid., *1990, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[217] Ibid., *1991, Supplement No. 2* (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[218] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[219] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[220] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[221] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[222] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[223] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[224] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

20 December 1993, 49/148 of 23 December 1994, 50/139 of 21 December 1995, 51/84 of 12 December 1996 and 52/113 of 12 December 1997,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,[225]

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/135. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/112 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions, in which, *inter alia*, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, and recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations, and self-determination of peoples,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, as developed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[226] all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Alarmed and concerned about the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries, in particular in Africa and in small States, and also elsewhere,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the polity and economies of affected countries resulting from mercenary aggression and criminal activities,

Convinced that it is necessary for Member States to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 1989,[227] and to develop and maintain international cooperation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of mercenary activities,

Convinced also that, notwithstanding the way in which mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are used or the form they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, they are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by peoples,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;[228]

2. *Reaffirms* that the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

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[225] A/53/280.

[226] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[227] Resolution 44/34, annex.

[228] A/53/338, annex.

3. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take the necessary legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State, threaten the territorial integrity and political unity of sovereign States, promote secession or fight the national liberation movements struggling against colonial or other forms of alien domination or occupation;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the necessary action to sign or to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;[227]

5. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that have invited the Special Rapporteur;

6. *Also welcomes* the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

7. *Invites* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur on their territories;

8. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

9. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Governments to make proposals towards a clearer legal definition of mercenaries;

11. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

12. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fourth session the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/136. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Aware that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the Charter,

Recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights,[229] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[230] the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[231] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[232]

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[233]

Expressing deep concern about the difficulties facing the Middle East peace process, and expressing the hope for rapid progress in the peace process and the achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides within the agreed time,

Affirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, without excluding the option of a State;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the Palestinian people will soon be exercising their right to self-determination in the current peace process;

3. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/137. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[234] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[235] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[236] the Convention on the Elimination of All

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[229] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[230] Resolution 217 A (III).

[231] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[232] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[233] See resolution 50/6.

[234] Resolution 217 A (III).

[235] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[236] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

Forms of Discrimination against Women,[237] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[238]

Bearing in mind the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Aware of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

Considering that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[239] all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Underlining the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia perpetrated in segments of many societies by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Bearing in mind that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

Recalling that, in its resolution 52/115 of 12 December 1997, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;

2. *Welcomes* the signature or ratification of or accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

5. *Welcomes* the launching of the global campaign for the entry into force of the Convention, and invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[240] and requests him to submit an updated report on the status of the Convention to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

7. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/138. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/118 of 12 December 1997, as well as other relevant resolutions, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/27 of 17 April 1998,[241]

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[242]

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[243] to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

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[237] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[238] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[239] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[240] A/53/230.

[241] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[242] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[243] Resolution 217 A (III).

Conscious of the importance of coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

Recalling that the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies in encouraging the realization by States parties of their obligations under United Nations human rights instruments requires constructive dialogue, which should be based on the reporting process supplemented by information from all relevant sources and aimed at assisting States parties in identifying solutions to human rights problems,

Recalling also the initiatives taken by a number of human rights treaty bodies to elaborate early warning measures and urgent procedures, within their mandates, with a view to preventing the occurrence or recurrence of serious human rights violations,

Reaffirming its responsibility for the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies, and reaffirming also the importance of:

(*a*) Promoting the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to those instruments,

(*b*) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources to overcome the under-resourcing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which impedes the ability of the human rights treaty bodies to carry out their mandates effectively,

(*c*) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks,

(*d*) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications when elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

Concerned that the lack of adequate resources should not impede the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, including in regard to their ability to work in the applicable working languages,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights,[244]

1. *Welcomes* the submission of the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their ninth[245] and tenth[246] meetings, held at Geneva from 25 to 27 February and 14 to 18 September 1998, respectively, and takes note of their conclusions and recommendations;

2. *Encourages* each treaty body to give careful consideration to the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

3. *Welcomes* the submission to the Commission on Human Rights of the final report of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations human rights treaty monitoring system[247] and of the report of the Secretary-General containing the comments and observations of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the report of the independent expert, as well as his views on the legal, administrative and other implications of the recommendations made in the report,[248] taking into account further developments;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to solicit the views of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the final report of the independent expert and to submit a further report thereon, including his own views on the legal, administrative and other implications of the recommendations made in the report, taking into account further developments;

5. *Encourages* ongoing efforts to identify measures for more effective implementation of the United Nations human rights instruments;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, and, with this in mind:

(*a*) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each human rights treaty body;

(*b*) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(*c*) Also calls upon the Secretary-General to seek, in the next biennium, the resources within the United Nations regular budget necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information without diverting resources from the development programmes and activities of the United Nations;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the revised plan of action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[249] and the plan of action to strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on

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[244] A/53/469.

[245] A/53/125, annex.

[246] A/53/432, annex.

[247] E/CN.4/1997/74, annex.

[248] E/CN.4/1998/85 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

[249] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[250] recalls the importance of administering those plans in accordance with established United Nations procedures, welcomes the information provided by the Secretary-General on the implementation of those plans, and requests him to include in his report prepared pursuant to the present resolution further information in this regard;

8. *Notes with interest* the work being done by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on a plan of action to enhance the resources available to all human rights treaty bodies;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for human rights treaty bodies to better complement each other in their work, and emphasizes that the universal ratification of international human rights treaties containing reporting obligations adopted within the framework of the United Nations system is important for the realization of that complementarity;

10. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts by the human rights treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing, rendering more transparent and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the Secretary-General, the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on States parties;

11. *Takes note with appreciation*, in this regard, of the efforts of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, at their ninth and tenth meetings, to propose appropriate reforms of the reporting system with a view to, *inter alia*, reducing the reporting burden on States parties while maintaining the quality of reporting, and encourages them to continue these efforts, including through the continued examination of the benefits of reports focused on a limited range of issues and of opportunities for harmonizing the general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports, the timing of consideration of reports and the methods of work of the treaty bodies;

12. *Invites* the Chairperson of the periodic meetings of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to submit the reports of the meetings to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

13. *Welcomes* the initiative undertaken by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies of inviting representatives of Member States to participate in a dialogue within the framework of their periodic meetings, and encourages them to continue this practice in the future;

14. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to complete as soon as possible the detailed analytical study comparing the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[250] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[250] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[251] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[252] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[240] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[253] which is being prepared with a view to identifying duplication of reporting required under those instruments;

15. *Urges* States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing, avoiding duplication in and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

16. *Welcomes* the publication of the revised *Manual on Human Rights Reporting*;[254]

17. *Underlines* the importance of providing technical assistance to a State, upon its request, in the process of ratifying human rights instruments and in the preparation of its initial reports;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile in a single volume all the general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports to be submitted by States parties that have been issued by the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee against Torture;

19. *Reiterates its concern* about the increasing backlog of reports on the implementation by States parties of certain United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies;

20. *Also reiterates its concern* about the large number of overdue reports under the United Nations instruments on human rights, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

21. *Invites* States parties that have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

22. *Urges* all States parties whose reports have been examined by human rights treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

23. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to continue to identify specific possibilities for technical assistance, to be provided at the request of the State concerned, in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

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[250] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[251] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[252] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[253] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[254] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.GV.97.0.16.

24. *Recalls* the recommendation by the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that treaty bodies urge each State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty bodies;

25. *Welcomes* the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them;

26. *Notes* that efforts continue to be made at coordination and cooperation between the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures, rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission, all acting within their respective mandates;

27. *Recognizes* the important role played by non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments, and encourages the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

28. *Recalls*, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the importance of giving consideration to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged independence and recognized competence in the field of human rights, and encourages States parties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect to these principles;

29. *Takes note* of the discussion of the payment of honorariums to the members of the human rights treaty bodies included in the report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights,[244] and of other work being done by the Secretary-General on this subject;

30. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council, as well as its functional commissions and their subsidiary bodies, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to consider the feasibility of participation by representatives of the human rights treaty bodies in their meetings;

31. *Welcomes* the continuing emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be monitored closely by each treaty body within the purview of its mandate, and, in this context, takes note of the recommendation made at their tenth meeting[255] that the treaty bodies take full account of the recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;[256]

32. *Also welcomes* the contributions of the human rights treaty bodies, within their mandates, to the prevention of violations of human rights, in the context of their consideration of reports submitted under their respective treaties;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution, on obstacles to its implementation and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies;

34. *Decides* to continue to give priority consideration at its fifty-fifth session to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/139. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[257] article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[258] the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[259] and its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and all its subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1993, firmly declared that efforts to eradicate torture should, first and foremost, be concentrated on prevention and called for the early adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention,[260]

Urging all Governments to promote the speedy and full implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[261] in particular, the section relating to freedom from torture, in which it is stated that States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights, such as torture, and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law,[262]

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[255] A/53/432, annex, para. 53.

[256] HRI/MC/1998/6.

[257] Resolution 217 A (III).

[258] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[259] Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

[260] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 61.

[261] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[262] Ibid., sect. II, paras. 54–61.

Recalling its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Recalling also the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that high priority should be given to providing the necessary resources to assist victims of torture and effective remedies for their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation, *inter alia*, through additional contributions to the Fund,[263]

Noting with satisfaction the existence of a considerable international network of centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, which plays an important role in providing assistance to victims of torture, and the collaboration of the Fund with the centres,

Mindful of the proclamation by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997 of 26 June as United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee against Torture,[264] submitted in accordance with article 24 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and authorizes the Secretary-General to extend the spring sessions of the Committee by one additional week;

2. *Notes with appreciation* that one hundred and six States have become parties to the Convention;

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

4. *Invites* all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States that are parties to the Convention and that have not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that have already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20;

5. *Urges* all States parties to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible;

6. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, in view of the high number of reports not submitted, and invites States parties to incorporate a gender perspective when submitting reports to the Committee;

7. *Commends* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the support given to States in the preparation of national reports for submission to the Committee;

8. *Urges* States parties to take fully into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee after its consideration of their reports;

9. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the inter-sessional open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention, and urges the Commission to complete as soon as possible a final text for submission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, for consideration and adoption;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report presented orally by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, describing the overall trends and developments with regard to his mandate;

11. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and to assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his task, in particular by supplying all necessary information requested by him, to react appropriately and expeditiously to his urgent appeals and to give serious consideration to his requests to visit their countries and to the follow-up to his recommendations;

12. *Approves* the methods of work employed by the Special Rapporteur, in particular as regards urgent appeals, reiterates his need to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, in particular Member States, in the elaboration of his report, and expresses its appreciation for the discreet and independent way in which he continues to carry out his work;

13. *Stresses* the need for regular exchanges of views between the Committee, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, as well as for the pursuance of cooperation with relevant United Nations programmes, notably the programme on crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to torture, *inter alia*, by improving their coordination;

14. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

15. *Appeals* to all Governments, organizations and individuals to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, preferably by the end of February, and if possible also with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, so that consideration may be given to the increasing demand for assistance;

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[263] Ibid., para. 59.

[264] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/53/44).

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Fund;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has accomplished;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its appeal for contributions and its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it, as well as in its assessment of the global need for international funding of rehabilitation services for torture victims and, in this effort, to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms that combat torture and assist victims of torture, commensurate with the strong support expressed by Member States for combating torture and assisting victims of torture;

21. *Invites* donor and recipient countries to consider including in their bilateral programmes and projects relating to the training of armed forces, security forces, prison and police personnel, as well as health-care personnel, matters relating to the protection of human rights and the prevention of torture and to keep in mind a gender perspective;

22. *Calls upon* all Governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to commemorate, on 26 June, United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and a report on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

24. *Decides* to consider the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the report of the Committee against Torture and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/140. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

Recalling, in this fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[265] article 18 of the Declaration,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[266]

Emphasizing that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is far-reaching and profound and that it encompasses freedom of thought on all matters, personal conviction and the commitment to religion or belief, whether manifested individually or in community with others,

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,[267]

Calling upon all Governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief to enable him to carry out his mandate fully,

Alarmed that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, occur in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply concerned that, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, the rights violated on religious grounds include the right to life, the right to physical integrity and to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom of expression, the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the right not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained,[268]

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[265] Resolution 217 A (III).

[266] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[267] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 22.

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of religion or belief is violated;

3. *Also urges* States to ensure, in particular, that no one within their jurisdiction is, because of his or her religion or belief, deprived of the right to life or the right to liberty and security of person or subjected to torture or arbitrary arrest or detention;

4. *Further urges* States, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to take all necessary action to prevent such instances, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance and to encourage, through the educational system and by other means, understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

5. *Recognizes* that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;

6. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

8. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided for in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for those purposes;

9. *Expresses its grave concern* at any attack upon religious places, sites and shrines, and calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with international human rights standards, to exert the utmost efforts to ensure that such places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected;

10. *Recognizes* that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by persons and groups is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration;

11. *Encourages* the continued efforts on the part of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

13. *Also encourages* Governments, when seeking the assistance of the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, to consider, where appropriate, including requests for assistance in the field of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups to promote the implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to consider what further contribution they could make to its implementation and dissemination in all parts of the world;

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary staffing, financial and material resources to enable him to discharge his mandate in full and on time;

18. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/141. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/103 of 12 December 1996 and 52/120 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/11 of 9 April 1998,[269]

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[268] E/CN.4/1994/79, para. 103.

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General,[270] pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/45 of 3 March 1995,[271] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/120,[272]

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, called upon States to refrain from any unilateral coercive measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights,[273]

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,[274] the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[275] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996,[276]

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this issue by the General Assembly and recent major United Nations conferences and contrary to general international law and the Charter of the United Nations, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented with all their extraterritorial effects, *inter alia*, on the economic and social development of targeted countries and peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Noting the continuing efforts of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Commission on Human Rights, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[277]

1. *Urges* all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[278] and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Rejects* unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, because of their negative effects on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women and the elderly;

3. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are party by revoking such measures at the earliest time possible;

4. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

5. *Urges* the Commission on Human Rights to take fully into account the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, including the enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development, to give urgent consideration to the present resolution in her annual report to the General Assembly;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations and to submit accordingly a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

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[269] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[270] E/CN.4/1996/45 and Add.1.

[271] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[272] A/53/293 and Add.1.

[273] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. I, para. 31.

[274] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[275] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[276] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[277] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[278] Resolution 217 A (III).

8. *Decides* to examine this question on a priority basis at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/142. Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[279] fifty years ago, Member States pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Firmly convinced that the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights, as stressed in the Declaration, and should continue to attract the attention of the international community,

Convinced that, through their own national legal and judicial systems, States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly entrusted the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with, *inter alia*, providing advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights, enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordinating human rights activities throughout the United Nations system,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, that a comprehensive programme should be established within the United Nations with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law,[280]

Bearing in mind that the Office of the High Commissioner remains the focal point for coordinating system-wide attention to human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

Recalling its resolution 52/125 of 12 December 1997 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/48 of 11 April 1997,[281]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[282]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the increasing number of Member States seeking assistance in strengthening and consolidating the rule of law;

3. *Praises* the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accomplish its ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at its disposal;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Office of the High Commissioner for the fulfilment of its tasks;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights does not have sufficient funds to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends but are facing economic hardship;

6. *Welcomes* the deepening of the ongoing cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing system-wide coordination of assistance in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and, in this context, takes note of the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner in providing technical assistance, at the request of States, in the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue the dialogue between her Office and other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, taking into account the need to explore new synergies with a view to obtaining increased financial assistance for human rights and the rule of law;

8. *Also encourages* the High Commissioner to continue to explore the possibility of further contact with and support of financial institutions, acting within their mandates, with a view to obtaining the technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by her Office with regard to the rule of law;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the High Commissioner to undertake an analysis of the technical cooperation provided by the United Nations in the field of human rights with the aim of formulating recommendations for inter-agency coordination, funding and allocation of responsibilities in order to improve efficiency and complementarity of action concerning, *inter alia*, assistance to States in strengthening the rule of law;

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[279] Ibid.

[280] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

[281] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[282] A/53/309.

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with the present resolution, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/143. Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[283]

Stressing that, as stated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[284] family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration and that remittances by documented migrants to their countries of origin often constitute a very important source of foreign exchange and are instrumental in improving the well-being of relatives left behind,

Recalling its resolution 52/121 of 12 December 1997,

1. *Once again calls upon* all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory;

2. *Reaffirms* that all Governments, in particular those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its incorporation into national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of families of documented migrants;

3. *Calls upon* all States to allow, in conformity with international legislation, the free flow of financial remittances by foreign nationals residing in their territory to their relatives in the country of origin;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to refrain from enacting, and to repeal if it already exists, legislation intended as a coercive measure that discriminates against legal migrants, whether individuals or groups, by adversely affecting family reunification and the right to send financial remittances to relatives in the country of origin;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/144. Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of the observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons in all countries of the world,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/7 of 3 April 1998,[285] in which the Commission approved the text of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/33 of 30 July 1998, in which the Council recommended the draft declaration to the General Assembly for adoption,

Conscious of the importance of the adoption of the draft declaration in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[286]

1. *Adopts* the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof, and requests the Secretary-General to include the text of the Declaration in the next edition of *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

ANNEX

Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of the observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons in all countries of the world,

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[283] Resolution 217 A (III).

[284] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[285] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[286] Resolution 217 A (III).

Reaffirming also the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[286] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[287] as basic elements of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the importance of other human rights instruments adopted within the United Nations system, as well as those at the regional level,

Stressing that all members of the international community shall fulfil, jointly and separately, their solemn obligation to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinctions based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and reaffirming the particular importance of achieving international cooperation to fulfil this obligation according to the Charter,

Acknowledging the important role of international cooperation for, and the valuable work of individuals, groups and associations in contributing to, the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals, including in relation to mass, flagrant or systematic violations such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination or occupation, aggression or threats to national sovereignty, national unity or territorial integrity and from the refusal to recognize the right of peoples to self-determination and the right of every people to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources,

Recognizing the relationship between international peace and security and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and mindful that the absence of international peace and security does not excuse non-compliance,

Reiterating that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and should be promoted and implemented in a fair and equitable manner, without prejudice to the implementation of each of those rights and freedoms,

Stressing that the prime responsibility and duty to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State,

Recognizing the right and the responsibility of individuals, groups and associations to promote respect for and foster knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels,

Declares:

Article 1

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.

Article 2

1. Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms, *inter alia*, by adopting such steps as may be necessary to create all conditions necessary in the social, economic, political and other fields, as well as the legal guarantees required to ensure that all persons under its jurisdiction, individually and in association with others, are able to enjoy all those rights and freedoms in practice.

2. Each State shall adopt such legislative, administrative and other steps as may be necessary to ensure that the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration are effectively guaranteed.

Article 3

Domestic law consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the State in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the juridical framework within which human rights and fundamental freedoms should be implemented and enjoyed and within which all activities referred to in the present Declaration for the promotion, protection and effective realization of those rights and freedoms should be conducted.

Article 4

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as impairing or contradicting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or as restricting or derogating from the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[286] the International Covenants on Human Rights[287] and other international instruments and commitments applicable in this field.

Article 5

For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels:

(*a*) To meet or assemble peacefully;

(*b*) To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups;

(*c*) To communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations.

Article 6

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others:

(*a*) To know, seek, obtain, receive and hold information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including having access to information as to how those rights and freedoms are given effect in domestic legislative, judicial or administrative systems;

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[287] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

(*b*) As provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*c*) To study, discuss, form and hold opinions on the observance, both in law and in practice, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, through these and other appropriate means, to draw public attention to those matters.

Article 7

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance.

Article 8

1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to have effective access, on a non-discriminatory basis, to participation in the government of his or her country and in the conduct of public affairs.

2. This includes, *inter alia*, the right, individually and in association with others, to submit to governmental bodies and agencies and organizations concerned with public affairs criticism and proposals for improving their functioning and to draw attention to any aspect of their work that may hinder or impede the promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 9

1. In the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the promotion and protection of human rights as referred to in the present Declaration, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to benefit from an effective remedy and to be protected in the event of the violation of those rights.

2. To this end, everyone whose rights or freedoms are allegedly violated has the right, either in person or through legally authorized representation, to complain to and have that complaint promptly reviewed in a public hearing before an independent, impartial and competent judicial or other authority established by law and to obtain from such an authority a decision, in accordance with law, providing redress, including any compensation due, where there has been a violation of that person's rights or freedoms, as well as enforcement of the eventual decision and award, all without undue delay.

3. To the same end, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To complain about the policies and actions of individual officials and governmental bodies with regard to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, by petition or other appropriate means, to competent domestic judicial, administrative or legislative authorities or any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, which should render their decision on the complaint without undue delay;

(*b*) To attend public hearings, proceedings and trials so as to form an opinion on their compliance with national law and applicable international obligations and commitments;

(*c*) To offer and provide professionally qualified legal assistance or other relevant advice and assistance in defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. To the same end, and in accordance with applicable international instruments and procedures, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies with general or special competence to receive and consider communications on matters of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. The State shall conduct a prompt and impartial investigation or ensure that an inquiry takes place whenever there is reasonable ground to believe that a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms has occurred in any territory under its jurisdiction.

Article 10

No one shall participate, by act or by failure to act where required, in violating human rights and fundamental freedoms and no one shall be subjected to punishment or adverse action of any kind for refusing to do so.

Article 11

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to the lawful exercise of his or her occupation or profession. Everyone who, as a result of his or her profession, can affect the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of others should respect those rights and freedoms and comply with relevant national and international standards of occupational and professional conduct or ethics.

Article 12

1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or *de jure* adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.

3. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 13

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to solicit, receive and utilize resources for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means, in accordance with article 3 of the present Declaration.

Article 14

1. The State has the responsibility to take legislative, judicial, administrative or other appropriate measures to promote the understanding by all persons under its jurisdiction of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

2. Such measures shall include, *inter alia*:

(*a*) The publication and widespread availability of national laws and regulations and of applicable basic international human rights instruments;

(*b*) Full and equal access to international documents in the field of human rights, including the periodic reports by the State to the bodies established by the international human rights treaties to which it is a party, as well as the summary records of discussions and the official reports of these bodies.

3. The State shall ensure and support, where appropriate, the creation and development of further independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all territory under its jurisdiction, whether they be ombudsmen, human rights commissions or any other form of national institution.

Article 15

The State has the responsibility to promote and facilitate the teaching of human rights and fundamental freedoms at all levels of education and to ensure that all those responsible for training lawyers, law enforcement officers, the personnel of the armed forces and public officials include appropriate elements of human rights teaching in their training programme.

Article 16

Individuals, non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions have an important role to play in contributing to making the public more aware of questions relating to all human rights and fundamental freedoms through activities such as education, training and research in these areas to strengthen further, *inter alia*, understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly relations among nations and among all racial and religious groups, bearing in mind the various backgrounds of the societies and communities in which they carry out their activities.

Article 17

In the exercise of the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration, everyone, acting individually and in association with others, shall be subject only to such limitations as are in accordance with applicable international obligations and are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Article 18

1. Everyone has duties towards and within the community, in which alone the free and full development of his or her personality is possible.

2. Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play and a responsibility in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the promotion and advancement of democratic societies, institutions and processes.

3. Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations also have an important role and a responsibility in contributing, as appropriate, to the promotion of the right of everyone to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments can be fully realized.

Article 19

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be interpreted as implying for any individual, group or organ of society or any State the right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration.

Article 20

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be interpreted as permitting States to support and promote activities of individuals, groups of individuals, institutions or non-governmental organizations contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

53/145. Situation of human rights in Cambodia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[288] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[289]

Recalling the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,[290] including part III thereof, relating to human rights,

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[288] Resolution 217 A (III).

[289] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[290] A/46/608–S/23177, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991*, document S/23177.

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/60 of 17 April 1998,[291] and recalling General Assembly resolution 52/135 of 12 December 1997 and previous relevant resolutions, including Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993,[292] in which the Commission recommended the appointment of a special representative in Cambodia, and the subsequent appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative,

Recognizing that the tragic history of Cambodia requires special measures to assure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and the non-return to the policies and practices of the past, as stipulated in the Agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,

Desiring that the United Nations respond positively to assist efforts to investigate the tragic history of Cambodia, including responsibility for past international crimes, such as acts of genocide and crimes against humanity,

Welcoming the continuing role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia and her visit to Cambodia in January 1998,

Welcoming also the agreement by the Government of Cambodia to extend the mandate of the office in Phnom Penh of the High Commissioner until March 2000, enabling the office to continue its operations and to maintain its technical cooperation programmes,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and to ensure adequate resources for the continued functioning in Cambodia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to enable the Special Representative to continue to fulfil his tasks expeditiously;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia,[293] in particular the section concerning the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue to cooperate with the Office;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Cambodia,[294] and notes in particular his concerns about political violence, the problem of impunity, the independence of the judiciary and the establishment of the rule of law, the use of torture, the administration of prisons and the ill-treatment of prisoners, child labour, child prostitution and trafficking, workers' rights and the freedom to form independent trade unions, media freedom and the situation of women, including violence against women, and minorities;

4. *Welcomes* the holding of national elections by the Government of Cambodia on 26 July 1998 and its efforts to ensure the safety of national and international observers of the elections;

5. *Notes* that the elections demonstrated the clear desire of the Cambodian people for democracy, stresses the need for the constructive engagement of all parties in order to fulfil the objective of the elections, the formation of an elected, constitutional government, and, in this context, welcomes the agreement reached between political parties to convene the National Assembly and to establish a coalition government;

6. *Welcomes* the role of the United Nations in monitoring the return of and full resumption of political activities by political leaders in the period leading up to, during and immediately after the elections;

7. *Also welcomes* the role of national non-governmental organizations in educating voters and providing observers at polling stations and of international observers during the recent elections, and takes note of the statements of the joint international observer group regarding the polling and counting processes of the elections;

8. *Encourages* the Government of Cambodia to continue to work with non-governmental organizations in efforts to strengthen and uphold human rights in Cambodia, in recognition of the vital and valuable role played by non-governmental organizations in the development of civil society in Cambodia;

9. *Notes* the formation of a provisional Cambodian human rights committee, and encourages the Government of Cambodia, in setting up a new Cambodian human rights commission, to take into account international standards, notably those on independence, and to request the Office of the High Commissioner to provide advice and technical assistance to this end;

10. *Expresses grave concern* about numerous instances of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial executions, torture, illegal arrests and detention, and violence in relation to political activities, as detailed in the reports of the Special Representative, including those that occurred in March and July 1997 and during the recent election campaign and its immediate aftermath, and calls upon the Government of Cambodia to investigate urgently and prosecute, in accordance with due process of the law and international standards relating to human rights, all those who have perpetrated human rights violations;

11. *Also expresses grave concern* at the situation of impunity in Cambodia, and stresses that addressing the continuing problem of impunity, as detailed by the Special Representative, including the repeal of article 51 of the 1994

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[291] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[292] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[293] A/53/400.

[294] E/CN.4/1998/95.

Law on Civil Servants and bringing to justice those responsible for human rights violations, together with ensuring the security of persons and the rights of association, assembly and expression, remains a matter of critical and urgent priority;

12. *Welcomes* the convening for the first time of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy in December 1997, as well as the adoption of the Law on the Constitutional Council in March 1998, and looks forward to the active implementation of their constitutional mandates;

13. *Condemns* the use of racist rhetoric and acts of violence against ethnic minorities, especially Cambodians of Vietnamese ethnicity, as detailed in the report of the Special Representative, and urges all political parties in Cambodia to abstain from statements or activities that could be interpreted as incitement against ethnic minorities;

14. *Notes with serious concern* the comments of the Special Representative about the judicial system and the prison administration, strongly urges the Government of Cambodia to continue its efforts to create a functioning and impartial system of justice and to implement the Prison Regulations signed in March 1998, and welcomes the cooperation of the Government of Cambodia with international efforts to improve the judicial system;

15. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Cambodia to improve the implementation of the freedoms laid down in the Cambodian Constitution with regard to the operation of a free electronic and print media and the security of persons and the rights of association, assembly and expression, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and in view of the critical role they play in the effective functioning of a multi-party democracy;

16. *Endorses* the comments of the Special Representative that the most serious human rights violations in Cambodia in recent history have been committed by the Khmer Rouge, and notes with concern that no Khmer Rouge leaders have been brought to account for their crimes;

17. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General, in response to the request by the Cambodian authorities for assistance in responding to past serious violations of Cambodian and international law by the Khmer Rouge, of a group of experts to evaluate the existing evidence and propose further measures as a means of bringing about national reconciliation, strengthening democracy and addressing the issue of individual accountability;

18. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Cambodia, together with non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to improve the quality of and access to education;

19. *Notes with serious concern* the prevalence of child labour in Cambodia, and calls upon the Government of Cambodia to ensure adequate health and safety conditions and access to education for working children and to outlaw the worst forms of child labour;

20. *Welcomes* the development by the Government of Cambodia, working with the office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations, of an action plan to combat child prostitution and trafficking, encourages the National Assembly to approve the plan as a matter of priority, and urges the Government of Cambodia to take concrete action to ensure its speedy and effective implementation;

21. *Urges* the Government of Cambodia to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women, including in the political and public life of the country, to combat violence against women in all its forms and to take all steps to meet its obligations as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[295] including by seeking technical assistance;

22. *Notes with appreciation* the use by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia to finance the programme of activities of the office in Cambodia of the High Commissioner, as defined in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals to consider contributing funds to the Trust Fund;

23. *Expresses grave concern* at the devastating consequences and destabilizing effects of the use of anti-personnel landmines on Cambodian society, encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue its support and efforts for the removal of these mines, including the work of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, commends donor countries for their contributions and assistance to the Centre, and urges the Government of Cambodia to give priority to banning all anti-personnel landmines;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative on matters within his mandate;

25. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Cambodia at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/146. Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[296] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[297] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

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[295] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[296] Resolution 217 A (III).

[297] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Cultural Rights,[297] and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

Considering the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[298] and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,[299]

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), 51/97 of 12 December 1996 on human rights and extreme poverty and 52/193 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasized the follow-up of the Decade,

Recalling also its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/11 of 21 February 1992,[300] 1993/13 of 26 February 1993,[301] 1994/12 of 25 February 1994,[302] 1995/16 of 24 February 1995,[303] 1996/10 of 11 April 1996,[304] 1997/11 of 3 April 1997[305] and 1998/25 of 17 April 1998,[306] as well as resolution 1996/23 of 29 August 1996 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights,[307]

Recalling its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and stressed the need for a complete and in-depth study of extreme poverty, based on the experience and the thoughts of the poorest people,

Recognizing that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization and requires coordinated and continued policies,

Recognizing also that, as the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community,

Welcoming the appointment, for a period of two years, of an independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, whose mandate includes, in particular, a contribution to the evaluation in the year 2000 of the World Summit for Social Development and whose work should continue to take into account the efforts of the poorest people themselves and the conditions in which they can convey their experiences,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[298] it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the communities in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty;

3. *Recognizes* that surmounting extreme poverty constitutes an essential means to the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and reaffirms the interrelationship between these goals;

4. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions;

5. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the specific action taken by the United Nations Children's Fund to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for some means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions, and urges them to continue this work;

7. *Invites* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty;

8. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the

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[298] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[299] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[300] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[301] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[302] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[303] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[304] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[305] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[306] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[307] See E/CN.4/1997/2–E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/147. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[308] which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person, and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[309]

Recalling also its resolutions 47/136 of 18 December 1992 and 51/92 of 12 December 1996, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/72 of 5 March 1992,[310] and taking note of Commission resolution 1998/68 of 21 April 1998,[311]

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty annexed thereto and Council resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 on their implementation, as well as the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985,

Deeply alarmed at the persistence, on a large scale, of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in all parts of the world,

Dismayed that in a number of countries impunity, the negation of justice, continues to prevail and often remains the main cause of the continuing occurrence of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in those countries,

Recalling, in this fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[312] article 6 of the Convention, and acknowledging in this context the historic significance of the adoption by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[313]

Acknowledging the contribution of the Conference with regard to ensuring effective prosecution concerning executions in serious violation of article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[314] without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all judicial guarantees that are generally recognized as indispensable,

Convinced of the need for effective action to combat and to eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represent a flagrant violation of the fundamental right to life,

1. *Strongly condemns once again* all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to take place throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms;

3. *Reiterates* the obligation of all Governments to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to identify and bring to justice those responsible, to grant adequate compensation to the victims or their families and to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such executions;

4. *Notes* the encouragement given to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to continue, within the framework of her mandate, to collect information from all concerned and to seek the views and comments of Governments so as to be able to respond effectively to reliable information that comes before her and to follow up communications and country visits;

5. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council decision 1998/265 of 30 July 1998, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/68, to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years;

6. *Takes note* of the statement made by the Special Rapporteur before the General Assembly on 4 November 1998;[315]

7. *Notes* the important role the Special Rapporteur has played towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

8. *Notes* that the Commission, in its resolution 1998/68, requested the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out her mandate:

(*a*) To continue to examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and to submit her findings on an annual basis, together with conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission, as well as such other reports as the Special Rapporteur deems necessary to keep the Commission informed about serious situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that warrant its immediate attention;

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[308] Resolution 217 A (III).

[309] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[310] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[311] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[312] Resolution 260 A (III).

[313] A/CONF.183/9.

[314] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[315] See A/C.3/53/SR.34.

(*b*) To respond effectively to information that comes before her, in particular when an extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened or when such an execution has occurred;

(*c*) To enhance further her dialogue with Governments, as well as to follow up recommendations made in reports after visits to particular countries;

(*d*) To continue to pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of children and women and to allegations concerning violations of the right to life in the context of violence against participants in demonstrations and other peaceful public manifestations or against persons belonging to minorities;

(*e*) To pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions where the victims are individuals carrying out peaceful activities in the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*f*) To continue to monitor the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment, bearing in mind the comments made by the Human Rights Committee in its interpretation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[309] as well as the Second Optional Protocol thereto;[316]

(*g*) To apply a gender perspective in her work;

9. *Strongly urges* all Governments to respond to the communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urges them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that she may carry out her mandate effectively, including, where appropriate, by issuing invitations to the Special Rapporteur when she so requests;

10. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers and government officials, as well as members of United Nations peacekeeping or observer missions, in human rights and humanitarian law issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community to support endeavours to that end;

11. *Urges* the Special Rapporteur to continue to draw to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights such situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as are of particularly serious concern to her or where early action might prevent further deterioration;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures relating to human rights, as well as with medical and forensic experts, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue efforts in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* the Governments of all States in which the death penalty has not been abolished to comply with their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, keeping in mind the safeguards and guarantees referred to in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 and 1989/64;

14. *Again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appears not to have been respected;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with an adequate and stable level of human, financial and material resources to enable her to carry out her mandate effectively, including through country visits;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with the High Commissioner's mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to ensure that personnel specialized in human rights and humanitarian law issues form part of United Nations missions, where appropriate, in order to deal with serious violations of human rights, such as extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

17. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and her recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/148. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[317] and its subsequent resolutions in this regard,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission concerning advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, including its most recent resolution on that subject, resolution 1998/57 of 17 April 1998,[318]

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[316] Resolution 44/128, annex.

[317] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[318] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[319] which reiterates the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Noting also the expansion, since 1993, of the technical cooperation programme of the Office of the High Commissioner upon the request of the Member States concerned, and the crucial importance of sharing information and experience and developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Noting further that national institutions can make an important contribution to the ongoing process of developing regional human rights arrangements, including in areas such as human rights education, mutual cooperation and information sharing,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[320]

2. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation which is aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. *Also welcomes*, in that respect, the close cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level government expert meetings and regional conferences of national human rights institutions, aimed at creating greater understanding of the promotion and protection of human rights issues in the regions, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards and at identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations, under this programme, of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with Governments of all regions;

5. *Invites* all Governments to continue to support the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner in the field of technical cooperation, with a view to further strengthening regional cooperation and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights;

6. *Reiterates* the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that human rights officers be assigned if and when necessary to regional offices of the United Nations for the purpose of disseminating information and offering training and other technical assistance in the field of human rights upon the request of the Member States concerned, and in this regard calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner also to disseminate information regarding regional arrangements which exist in different parts of the world;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights;

8. *Welcomes* the growing exchanges between the Office of the High Commissioner and regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as the growing exchanges between the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights and relevant regional organizations and bodies such as the Council of Europe and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

9. *Also welcomes* the recent adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights[321] on the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

10. *Invites* States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, and recognizes in this context that the annual intergovernmental workshop for

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[319] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[320] A/53/324.

[321] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

the Asia-Pacific region, as stated during the sixth Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia and Pacific Region, held at Tehran from 28 February to 2 March 1998,[322] is an important forum for the discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation;

11. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-fifth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/149. Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[323] the International Covenants on Human Rights[324] and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Recalling its previous resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[325]

Affirming the importance of the objectivity, independence and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[323] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[324] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[324] and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection, and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and

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[322] See E/CN.4/1998/50.

[323] Resolution 217 A (III).

[324] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[325] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Stresses*, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to take duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, including the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on this issue to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

12. *Decides* to consider this matter at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/150. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[326] the International Covenants on Human Rights[327] and the other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons and its resolutions 46/125 of 17 December 1991, 49/193 of 23 December 1994 and 51/94 of 12 December 1996 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Recalling also its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992 proclaiming the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Expressing concern that, according to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights, the practice of a number of States can run counter to the Declaration,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the intensification of enforced disappearances in various regions of the world and by the growing number of reports concerning the harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Convinced that further efforts are needed to promote wider awareness of and respect for the Declaration, and taking note in this regard of the report of the Secretary-General,[328]

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/40 of 17 April 1998,[329]

1. *Reaffirms* that any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity and a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[326] and reaffirmed and developed in other international instruments in this field, as well as a violation of the rules of international law;

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through technical assistance;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that, when a state of emergency is introduced, the protection of human rights is ensured, in particular as regards the prevention of enforced disappearances;

4. *Reminds* Governments of the need to ensure that their competent authorities conduct prompt and impartial inquiries in all circumstances, whenever there is a reason to believe that an enforced disappearance has occurred in territory under their jurisdiction, and that, if allegations are confirmed, perpetrators should be prosecuted;

5. *Once again urges* the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subjected;

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[326] Resolution 217 A (III).

[327] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[328] A/53/304.

[329] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

6. *Encourages* States, as some have already done, to provide concrete information on measures taken to give effect to the Declaration, as well as obstacles encountered;

7. *Requests* all States to consider the possibility of disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in local languages;

8. *Notes* the action taken by non-governmental organizations to encourage implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to continue to facilitate its dissemination and to contribute to the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights for its humanitarian work;

10. *Requests* the Working Group, in the continued exercise of its mandate, to take into account the provisions of the Declaration and to modify its working methods, if necessary;

11. *Recalls* the importance of the Working Group, the primary role of which is, as described in its reports, to act as a channel of communication between the families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring that sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated, and to ascertain whether such information falls under its mandate and contains the required elements, and invites the Group to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in preparing its report;

12. *Invites* the Working Group to identify obstacles to the realization of the provisions of the Declaration, to recommend ways of overcoming those obstacles and, in this regard, to continue a dialogue with Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Encourages* the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, in close collaboration with the rapporteur appointed by the Subcommission and with due regard for the relevant provisions of the Declaration;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to pay the utmost attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons and to cooperate closely with the Governments concerned to search for and identify those children;

15. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet replied to the communications transmitted by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it and, in particular, to reply promptly to its requests for information so that, while respecting its working methods based on discretion, it may perform its strictly humanitarian role;

16. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to give serious consideration to inviting the Working Group to visit their countries so as to enable the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

17. *Expresses its profound thanks* to the many Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information and to the Governments that have invited the Group to visit their countries, asks them to give all necessary attention to the recommendations of the Group, and invites them to inform the Group of any action they take on those recommendations;

18. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any steps it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group and to the follow-up of its recommendations when it considers the report to be submitted by the Group to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

19. *Renews its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all the facilities it requires to perform its functions, especially for carrying out missions and following them up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he takes to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to consider the question of enforced disappearances, and in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/151. Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/124 of 18 December 1992, 48/126 of 20 December 1993, 49/213 of 23 December 1994 and 51/95 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling also that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its Preamble that to practise tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

Stressing that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Bearing in mind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[330] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[331] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[332]

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[330] Resolution 217 A (III).

Reconfirming that tolerance is the sound foundation of any civil society and of peace,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General[333] transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance,[334] submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/95,

1. *Welcomes* the role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of several Member States to the realization of projects and activities aimed at the promotion of tolerance and non-violence, especially by means of education;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider extending the material and moral support necessary for the functioning and enlargement of the existing regional networks of tolerance, non-violence and solidarity in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basin, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America;

4. *Also invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider the possibility of creating institutional networks of tolerance, non-violence and solidarity in other regions and subregions;

5. *Welcomes* the translation and dissemination of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance in many languages;

6. *Welcomes equally* the experience gained during the celebration in 1996 and 1997 of the International Day for Tolerance, and invites Member States and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the celebration of the International Day by means of educational activities and public information campaigns aimed at the realization of more tolerant societies;

7. *Invites* Member States to continue their efforts to achieve a wider application of the Declaration;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to be the lead United Nations agency in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to include in its report on a culture of peace, to be submitted to the Millennium Assembly, information on the progress made in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/152. The human genome and human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[335] the International Covenants on Human Rights[336] and the other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1993/91 of 10 March 1993[337] and 1997/71 of 16 April 1997,[338] on the question of human rights and bioethics,

Recalling also that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Aware of the rapid development of the life sciences and of ethical concerns raised by certain of their applications with regard to the dignity of the human race and the rights and freedoms of the individual,

Seeking to promote scientific and technical progress in the fields of biology and genetics in a manner respectful of fundamental rights and for the benefit of all,

Emphasizing, in this regard, the importance of international cooperation in order to ensure that mankind as a whole benefits from the life sciences, while seeking to prevent them from being used for any purpose other than the good of mankind,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights[339] and the accompanying resolution on its implementation,[340] both adopted on 11 November 1997 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session,

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[331] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[332] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[333] A/53/284.

[334] A/51/201, appendix I.

[335] Resolution 217 A (III).

[336] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[337] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[338] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[339] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, resolution 16.

[340] Ibid., resolution 17.

Recognizing the importance of the process of follow-up to the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights within the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Convinced of the need to develop a life-sciences ethic at the national and international levels,

Endorses the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 11 November 1997.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/153. United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[341] article 26 of which states that "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms", and the provisions of other international human rights instruments, such as those of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[342] article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[343] article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[344] article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[345] article 10 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[346] and paragraphs 78 to 82 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[347] which reflect the aims of the aforementioned article,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to human rights education and information,

Convinced that every woman, man, youth and child, in order to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Convinced also that human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive, lifelong process by which people at all levels of development and in all societies learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect,

Recognizing that human rights education and information are essential to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that carefully designed training, dissemination and information programmes can have a catalytic effect on national, regional and international initiatives to promote and protect human rights and prevent human rights violations,

Convinced that human rights education and information contribute to a holistic concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society such as children, young persons, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, the rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and disabled persons,

Taking into account the efforts to promote human rights education made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme,

Recognizing the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental and community-based organizations can play in disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities,

Aware of the potential supportive role of the private sector in implementing at all levels of society the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,[348] and the World Public Information Campaign, through creative initiatives and financial support for governmental and non-governmental activities,

Convinced that the effectiveness of existing human rights education and public information activities would be enhanced by better coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

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[341] Resolution 217 A (III).

[342] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[343] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[344] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[345] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[346] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[347] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[348] A/51/506/Add.1, appendix.

Recalling that it is within the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

Considering that the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998 constituted an invaluable opportunity for all members of the international community to enhance human rights education and information activities throughout the world,

Welcoming the decision of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights to place the question of the right to education, and in particular human rights education, on its agenda for the duration of the Decade,

Taking note with appreciation of the increased efforts undertaken so far by the Office of the High Commissioner to disseminate human rights information through its website[349] and its publications and external relations programmes,

Welcoming the initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner to develop the project entitled "Assisting Communities Together", supported by voluntary funds and designed to provide small grants to grass-roots and local organizations carrying out practical human rights activities,

Welcoming also the initiative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to disseminate human rights information through the United Nations project *CyberSchoolBus*,[350] an Internet-based educational service that provides an interactive website for secondary schools,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights,[351] including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,[348] and to develop public information activities in the field of human rights, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Urges* all Governments to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular by establishing, in accordance with national conditions, broadly representative national committees for human rights education responsible for the development of comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education and information, taking into consideration the guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[352] within the framework of the Decade;

4. *Urges* Governments to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national plans of action;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, in accordance with their national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination in their relevant national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[341] the International Covenants on Human Rights[342] and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties under international human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights education and information strategies within the United Nations system, including the implementation of the Plan of Action, and to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the use, processing, management and distribution of human rights information and educational materials, including through electronic means;

7. *Encourages* Governments to contribute to the further development of the website of the Office of the High Commissioner,[349] in particular with respect to the dissemination of human rights education materials and tools, and to continue and expand the publications and external relations programmes of the Office;

8. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to support national capacities for human rights education and information through its technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights, including the organization of training courses and the development of targeted training materials for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as components of technical cooperation projects;

9. *Urges* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information, reference and audio-visual materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties under international human rights instruments, and, to this end, to ensure that the information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;

10. *Stresses* the need for close collaboration between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign, and the need to

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[349] www.unhchr.ch.

[350] www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/.

[351] A/53/313.

[352] A/52/469/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

harmonize their activities with those of other international organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to its project entitled "Towards a culture of peace" and the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

11. *Invites* the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes and funds to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign and to cooperate closely with the Office of the High Commissioner in that regard;

12. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies, when examining reports of States parties, to place emphasis on obligations of the States parties in the area of human rights education and information and to reflect this emphasis in their concluding observations;

13. *Calls upon* international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development, food, housing, education, health care and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities of formal, non-formal and informal education, including cultural events, alone and in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in implementing the Plan of Action;

14. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue beyond 10 December 1998 the human rights education and public information work undertaken in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the development of materials, the elaboration of programmes and the establishment of networks, as called for by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 11 of its resolution 1998/45 of 17 April 1998;[353]

15. *Encourages* the Commission on Human Rights to consider jointly, for the duration of the Decade, the question of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue considering ways and means to support human rights education activities, including those undertaken by non-governmental organizations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information, and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a comprehensive report on its implementation of the present resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/154. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/81 of 24 April 1998 on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,[354]

Reaffirming its commitment to promote international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[355] in order to enhance genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, and underlining the importance of the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues,

Taking note of the adoption of resolution 1998/28 of 26 August 1998, entitled "Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues", by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session,[356]

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission to continue the consideration of this question at its fifty-fifth session;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies to continue to carry out constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

3. *Invites* States and all relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to pay continued attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and

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[353] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[354] Ibid.

[355] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[356] See E/CN.4/1999/4–E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45, chap. II, sect A.

dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

4. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/155. Right to development

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development,

Emphasizing that the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development are an integral part of the promotion and protection of all human rights at the national and international levels,

Noting that the human person is the central subject of development and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant in and beneficiary of development,

Stressing the importance of creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development at the national and international levels,

Recalling that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues must be ensured,

Expressing its concern that, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[357] the unacceptable situation of absolute poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness remains the lot of over one billion people,

Reaffirming the commitment contained in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Mindful that the Commission on Human Rights continues to consider this matter and, by its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998,[358] established a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years,

Noting the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for the more effective promotion and realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has an important role to play in the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development, including through enhanced cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose,

Reaffirming that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development[359] requires effective development policies and support at the international level through the effective contribution of States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations active in this field,

Emphasizing that full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms is necessary for lasting progress towards the realization of the right to development,

Reaffirming the need for action by all States at the national and international levels for the realization of all human rights and the need for relevant evaluation mechanisms to ensure the promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Expressing its concern that, more than ten years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and while noting that new challenges and opportunities for development have emerged in an increasingly globalized world, obstacles to the realization of the right to development still persist at both the national and the international levels, that new obstacles to the rights stated therein have emerged and that the progress made in removing these obstacles remains precarious,

Also expressing its concern that the Declaration on the Right to Development is insufficiently disseminated and should be taken into account, as appropriate, in bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, national development strategies and policies and activities of international organizations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development,[360] prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/136 of 12 December 1997,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development,[359] and reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[361] for every human person and for all peoples in all countries, in particular the developing

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[357] Resolution 217 A (III).

[358] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect A.

[359] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[360] A/53/268.

[361] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

countries, as an integral part of fundamental human rights, as well as the potential contribution its realization could make to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Recognizes* that the Declaration on the Right to Development constitutes an integral link between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[357] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, through its elaboration of a holistic vision integrating economic, social and cultural rights with civil and political rights;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which reaffirms the right to development, as established by the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and also reaffirms that the human person is the central subject of development;

5. *Reaffirms* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and in this context affirms that:

(*a*) Development experiences of countries reflect differences with regard to both progress and setbacks, and that the development spectrum has a wide range, not only between countries but also within countries;

(*b*) A number of developing countries have experienced rapid economic growth and remain dynamic partners in the international community;

(*c*) At the same time, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide and developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and may risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

(*d*) Democracy, which is spreading everywhere, has raised development expectations everywhere, that the non-fulfilment of those expectations risks rekindling non-democratic forces, and that structural reforms which do not take social realities into account could destabilize the processes of democratization;

(*e*) Effective popular participation is an essential component of successful and lasting development;

(*f*) Democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, are an essential part of the foundations necessary for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

(*g*) The participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process needs to be broadened and strengthened;

6. *Also reaffirms* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms would be strengthened by enhanced international cooperation, in particular, for development;

7. *Urges* all States to eliminate all obstacles to development at all levels by pursuing the promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, implementing comprehensive development programmes at the national level, integrating these rights into development activities and promoting effective international cooperation;

8. *Reiterates* that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

9. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within her mandate, to give due regard to the impact of the problem of the external debt burden of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, on the full enjoyment of the right to development in those countries;

10. *Expresses deep concern* about the overall decline in official development assistance flows, and calls upon the developed countries, in a spirit of partnership, to mobilize further resources for development assistance to support the efforts of States towards the realization of the right to development, with a view to fulfilling as soon as possible the commitments undertaken to meet the agreed United Nations targets;

11. *Affirms* the need to apply a gender perspective in the implementation of the right to development, *inter alia*, by ensuring that women play an active role in the development process, and emphasizes that the empowerment of women and their full participation on a basis of equality in all spheres of society is fundamental for development;

12. *Expresses concern* about the adverse impact of the current financial crisis on the realization of the right to development and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in affected countries, especially on the right to food, health, education and work;

13. *Affirms* that international cooperation is acknowledged more than ever as a necessity deriving from recognized mutual interest and, therefore, that such cooperation should be strengthened in order to support the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems and to fulfil their obligations to promote and protect all human rights;

14. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to give high priority to the right to development, and urges all States to promote further the right to development as a vital element in a balanced human rights programme;

15. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the High Commissioner towards the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites her to explore further ways and means to achieve this objective;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly of the activities of the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Declaration on the Right

to Development, as well as obstacles identified by them to the realization of the right to development;

17. *Welcomes* the establishment of a follow-up mechanism, initially for a three-year period, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72, consisting of an open-ended working group of the Commission and an independent expert, in order to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development;

18. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including comprehensive and effective measures to eliminate obstacles to its implementation;

19. *Recognizes* that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides an important opportunity to place all human rights, and the right to development in particular, at the top of the global agenda;

20. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, as appropriate:

(*a*) To examine ways and means to provide the Declaration on the Right to Development with a profile commensurate with its importance;

(*b*) To continue to accord priority to the right to development and provide commensurate support in terms of staff, services and resources for its programmatic follow-up;

(*c*) To ensure widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development, in close cooperation with States and intergovernmental organizations, national institutions, academia and interested non-governmental organizations worldwide by making booklets and publications freely available, in a similar way as for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and through workshops and seminars;

(*d*) To project the role and importance of the right to development, as part of the overall promotion and protection of human rights;

(*e*) To consult regularly on a formal and informal basis with all States on the follow-up to the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(*f*) To continue the welcome initiative to organize regional seminars which should focus on all aspects of the realization of the right to development;

(*g*) To undertake a dialogue with the World Bank with regard to the right to development, including initiatives, policies, programmes and activities that can promote the right to development, and to inform Member States on a regular basis of the progress made in such a dialogue;

(*h*) To involve relevant entities of the United Nations, such as those participating in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, to promote and advocate the right to development and its realization, especially at the international level;

21. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights:

(*a*) To invite the independent expert appointed by the Chairman of the Commission to include in his study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development proposals for measures that could be taken for the more effective realization of the right to development at the national and international levels, and to submit his studies to the General Assembly;

(*b*) To invite the follow-up mechanism, *inter alia*, to consider the question of elaborating a convention on the right to development;

22. *Encourages* all States to address, within the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations, elements for the promotion and protection of the right to development;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

24. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/156. Situation of human rights in Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the International Bill of Human Rights,[362] the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide[363] and other applicable human rights and humanitarian law standards,

Recalling its resolution 52/146 of 12 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/69 of 21 April 1998,[364]

Reaffirming that effective action to prevent further violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms must be a central and integral element of the overall Rwandan and United Nations responses to the situation in Rwanda and that a strengthened human rights component is indispensable to national reconciliation and reconstruction in Rwanda,

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[362] See resolutions 217 A (III), 2200 A (XXI), annex, and 44/128, annex.

[363] Resolution 260 A (III).

[364] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap.II, sect. A.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda[365] and the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda,[366] and refers also to the relevant reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences[367] and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers;[368]

2. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of the crime of genocide and crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda in 1994;

3. *Expresses deep concern* at the continuing serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the country, in particular those associated with the conflict in the north-west, and in regard to conditions of detention and the trial process of those accused of genocide and crimes against humanity;

4. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully, without delay, with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, taking into account the obligations set forth in Security Council resolutions 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 and 978 (1995) of 27 February 1995, and encourages the Secretary-General to facilitate the activities of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the greatest extent possible;

5. *Commends* the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the progress made in its work, and urges the Tribunal to find further ways to speed up its proceedings;

6. *Deeply regrets* that no agreement could be reached on a new mandate for the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, which consequently led to the withdrawal of the Field Operation from Rwanda on 28 July 1998;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of Rwanda to create a National Human Rights Commission, and urges the Government to take appropriate action to enable the Commission to be fully established and to begin functioning independently in accordance with the international principles relating to the development of independent, pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

8. *Encourages* further efforts by the Government of Rwanda to undertake a broad public debate aimed at further strengthening the functioning and independence of the National Human Rights Commission, urges the Government to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to facilitate the debate, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue to provide appropriate assistance;

9. *Supports and encourages* continued efforts by the Government of Rwanda to prosecute violations committed by some elements of its armed forces, and in this context notes with interest the reinforcement of the Military Prosecutor's Department, which will increase the capacity of the Rwandan Patriotic Army to conduct internal investigations and bring accused persons to trial;

10. *Urges* the Government of Rwanda to give the utmost priority to the prosecution and punishment of crimes of sexual violence committed against women, in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

11. *Encourages* the Government of Rwanda to further ensure the independence of the judiciary and, with the support of the international community, to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system, particularly taking additional steps to ensure full respect of fair trial guarantees, as required by Rwandan law, article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[369] and other international safeguards;

12. *Welcomes* the continuation of trials of those suspected of genocide and crimes against humanity in Rwanda and the improvements that have been made in the trial process, particularly the expedition of the initial stages of prosecution;

13. *Reiterates its appeal* to the international community to provide assistance to the Government of Rwanda to help to strengthen the protection of genocide survivors and witnesses, and the administration of justice, including with regard to adequate access to legal representation, to prosecute those responsible for genocide and other violations of human rights and to promote the rule of law in Rwanda, and notes with appreciation the assistance already provided by the donor community;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the release of minors, elderly prisoners, prisoners suffering from terminal illnesses and suspects with incomplete files, who were detained for their alleged involvement in genocide and other abuses of human rights, and urges the Government of Rwanda to establish adequate measures to facilitate the reintegration of released persons into society;

15. *Reiterates its concern* at the conditions in most communal detention centres and prisons, emphasizes the need for greater attention and resources to be directed to that problem and encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue to look for pragmatic solutions to allow for an increase of the number of prisoners being released and reintegrated into society, and again urges the international community to assist the Government of Rwanda in that area;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and non-governmental organizations, which have supported the

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[365] A/53/367, annex.

[366] A/53/402, annex.

[367] E/CN.4/1998/54/Add.1.

[368] E/CN.4/1998/39.

[369] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Government of Rwanda in the area of human rights, and encourages further joint efforts of the Government of Rwanda and other Governments, the High Commissioner and non-governmental organizations in the area of human rights within mutually agreed frameworks of cooperation, taking into account, *inter alia*, the five-point plan of the Government of Rwanda, which includes the following priority areas, as outlined in the report of the Special Representative:[370] (*a*) training national human rights monitors; (*b*) initiating human rights education programmes in formal and informal education; (*c*) providing the National Human Rights Commission with the necessary financial and technical assistance; (*d*) initiating a human rights public-awareness campaign using media resources; and (*e*) establishing a national centre for human rights as an information clearing house and training centre;

17. *Encourages* continued cooperation among the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights and the Government of Rwanda;

18. *Decides* to keep the situation of human rights in Rwanda under consideration at its fifty-fourth session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/157. Situation of human rights in Iraq

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[371] the International Covenants on Human Rights[372] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Mindful that Iraq is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to other international human rights instruments and to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war,[373]

Recalling its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, and taking note of the most recent, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/65 of 21 April 1998,[374]

Taking note of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child[375] following the consideration by the Committee of the initial report of Iraq under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[376]

Recalling Security Council resolution 686 (1991) of 2 March 1991, in which the Council called upon Iraq to release all Kuwaitis and nationals of other States who might still be held in detention, Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 and 688 (1991) of 5 April 1991, in which the Council demanded an end to the repression of the Iraqi civilian population and insisted that Iraq cooperate with international humanitarian organizations and that the human rights of all Iraqi citizens be respected, and Council resolutions 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, 1111 (1997) of 4 June 1997, 1129 (1997) of 12 September 1997, 1143 (1997) of 4 December 1997, 1153 (1998) of 20 February 1998 and 1175 (1998) of 19 June 1998, by which the Council authorized States to permit imports of Iraqi oil in order to allow Iraq to purchase humanitarian supplies,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions 986 (1995),[377] 1111 (1997)[378] and 1143 (1997)[379] and, in particular, his report of 1 September 1998 concerning the implementation of Council resolution 1153 (1998),[380]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq[381] and the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and notes with dismay that there has been no improvement in the situation of human rights in the country;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Iraq to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under international human rights treaties and international humanitarian law and to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their origin, ethnicity, gender or religion, within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction;

3. *Also calls upon* the Government of Iraq to cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by receiving a return visit by the Special Rapporteur to Iraq and allowing the stationing of human rights monitors throughout Iraq pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

4. *Strongly condemns* the systematic, widespread and extremely grave violations of human rights and of international

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[370] See A/53/402, para. 18.

[371] Resolution 217 A (III).

[372] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[373] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[374] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[375] CRC/C/15/Add. 94.

[376] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[377] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/1015.

[378] Ibid., *Fifty-second Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1997*, document S/1997/935.

[379] Ibid., *Fifty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1998*, documents S/1998/90 and S/1998/194; and ibid., *Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/477.

[380] Ibid., *Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/823.

[381] A/53/433.

humanitarian law by the Government of Iraq, resulting in all-pervasive repression and oppression;

5. *Condemns* the suppression of freedom of thought, expression, information, association, assembly and movement through fear of arrest, imprisonment and other sanctions, in particular the death penalty;

6. *Also condemns* the widespread use of the death penalty in disregard of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[382] and the United Nations safeguards, including for petty crimes such as property theft and customs violations;

7. *Strongly condemns* summary and arbitrary executions, including political killings, enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practised arbitrary arrests and detention and consistent and routine failure to respect due process and the rule of law, and calls upon the Government of Iraq to provide an accounting for the clean-out of prisons where there is credible evidence of mass summary executions;

8. *Expresses its deep concern* at widespread, systematic torture in its most cruel forms, and the enactment and implementation of decrees prescribing cruel and inhuman punishment as a penalty for offences;

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Iraq to abrogate all decrees that prescribe cruel and inhuman punishment or treatment, including mutilations, and to ensure that torture and cruel punishment and treatment no longer occur, and also to abrogate all laws and procedures, including Revolution Command Council Decree No. 840 of 4 November 1986, that penalize free expression and to ensure that the genuine will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of the State;

10. *Also calls upon* the Government of Iraq to restore the independence of the judiciary and to abrogate all laws granting impunity to specified forces or persons who kill or injure individuals for any purpose beyond the administration of justice under the rule of law as prescribed by international standards;

11. *Demands* that the Government of Iraq bring the actions of its military and security forces into conformity with the standards of international law, in particular those of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

12. *Urges* the Government of Iraq to put an end without delay to the continuing enforced displacement of persons on discriminatory grounds;

13. *Also urges* the Government of Iraq to respect the rights of all ethnic and religious groups and to cease immediately its repressive practices aimed at the Iraqi Kurds, Assyrians, Turkomen and the population of the southern marsh areas, and to ensure the personal integrity and freedoms of the Shi'a and their religious establishment;

14. *Calls upon* the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the Tripartite Commission to establish the whereabouts and resolve the fate of the remaining several hundred missing persons, including prisoners of war, Kuwaiti nationals and third-country nationals victims of the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, to cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights for that purpose and to pay compensation to the families of those who died or disappeared in the custody of the Iraqi authorities through the mechanism established by the Security Council in its resolution 692 (1991) of 20 May 1991, and to release immediately all Kuwaitis and nationals of other States who may still be held in detention;

15. *Also calls upon* the Government of Iraq to increase its cooperation with international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance and monitoring in the northern and southern areas of the country, in particular to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living, including to food and health care;

16. *Takes note* of the appreciation of the Secretary-General, as expressed in his report of 1 September 1998,[380] of the continued cooperation of Iraq in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 986 (1995), 1111 (1997), 1129 (1997), 1143 (1997) and 1153 (1998) and the memorandum of understanding on this issue, concluded between the Secretariat and the Government of Iraq on 20 May 1996;[383]

17. *Calls upon* the Government of Iraq to continue to cooperate in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 986 (1995), 1111 (1997), 1143 (1997) and 1153 (1998) and to ensure fully the equitable distribution of the humanitarian supplies purchased with the proceeds of Iraqi oil to the Iraqi population, without discrimination, including to remote areas, and to continue to facilitate the work of United Nations humanitarian personnel in Iraq by ensuring the free and unobstructed movement of observers throughout the country;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance in carrying out his mandate;

19. *Decides* to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in Iraq at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions", in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/158. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[384] the International

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[382] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[383] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/356.

[384] Resolution 217 A (III).

Covenants on Human Rights[385] and other human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this subject, including the most recent, resolution 52/142 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/80 of 22 April 1998,[386]

1. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,[387] and takes note of the conclusion of the Special Representative that a political will exists to move Iranian society to a more tolerant and more peaceful condition but that, while some sectors are already benefiting from this progress, significant violations of human rights continue to occur;

2. *Welcomes also* the commitment made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote respect for the rule of law, including the elimination of arbitrary arrest and detention, and to reform the legal and penitentiary system, including the closure of detention centres outside the national prison system, and to bring it into line with international human rights standards in this field, and calls upon the Government to take all necessary steps in this regard;

3. *Welcomes further* the more open debate in the Islamic Republic of Iran on issues of governance and human rights, as well as governmental efforts to make progress in the area of freedom of expression, while remaining concerned at instances of arbitrary closure of publications, widely reported cases of harassment and persecution of persons, including writers and members of the press;

4. *Welcomes* a more positive approach by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to freedom of assembly, as well as the support given to the development of non-governmental organizations, and expresses the hope that freedom for political activities will become more effective;

5. *Notes with interest* the increasing focus of the Islamic Human Rights Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the examination of individual complaints and training activities, and expresses the hope that the Commission will become a truly independent agency for the promotion and protection of human rights in line with the 1993 principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;[388]

6. *Welcomes* the assurances given by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it has no intention of taking any action whatsoever to threaten the life of Salman Rushdie and those associated with his work or of encouraging or assisting anyone to do so, and that it disassociates itself from any reward offered in this regard and does not support it, but expresses its concern at continuing threats to the life of Salman Rushdie, including the announced increase in the bounty;

7. *Expresses its concern* at the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as reported by the Special Representative, in particular executions in the apparent absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards, the use of national security laws as a basis for derogating from the rights of the individual, cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including sentences of stoning and amputation, as well as the failure to meet international standards in the administration of justice and the absence of due process of law;

8. *Also expresses its concern* at the discrimination against religious minorities and in particular remains gravely concerned at the unabated pattern of persecution against the Baha'is, in particular the execution and sentencing to death and arrests of members of the Baha'i community, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance relating to the Baha'is and to other religious minorities, until they are completely emancipated;

9. *Takes note* of statements made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the need to review laws and attitudes which discriminate against women, and, remaining concerned at the lack of full and equal enjoyment by women of their human rights, as reported by the Special Representative, calls upon the Government to take substantive and effective measures to eliminate discrimination in law and in practice against women;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its efforts and to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights[385] and under other international instruments on human rights, and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including persons belonging to religious minorities, enjoy all the rights enshrined in those instruments;

11. *Also calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure that capital punishment will not be imposed for other than the most serious crimes, for apostasy, or otherwise in disregard of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[385] and United Nations safeguards, and to provide the Special Representative with relevant statistics on this matter;

12. *Further calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make full use of technical cooperation programmes in the field of human rights, and welcomes in this context the willingness of the Government to introduce international human rights standards into the curricula of universities;

13. *Deplores* the fact that no invitation has yet been extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to

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[385] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[386] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[387] A/53/423 and Corr.1, annex.

[388] Resolution 48/134, annex.

the Special Representative to visit the country, and calls upon the Government to extend an invitation to him and to resume its full cooperation with the Special Representative in the discharge of his mandate;

14. *Decides* to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions", in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/159. Situation of human rights in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[389] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[390]

Recalling its resolution 52/138 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/58 of 17 April 1998,[391]

Recognizing the interdependence and mutual reinforcement between democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the commitment of the international community to supporting, strengthening and promoting this principle,

Taking note of the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Adama Dieng,[392] who was appointed to assist the Government of Haiti to consider the development of the situation of human rights in Haiti and to verify its compliance with its obligations in that field, and the recommendations contained therein,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of technical cooperation aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of Haiti in the field of human rights,[393]

Recognizing the important contributions of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti and the National Commission of Truth and Justice to the task of restoring and strengthening democracy in Haiti and of establishing a climate of freedom and tolerance conducive to respect for human rights in that country,

Noting with satisfaction that, in its resolution 52/174 of 18 December 1997, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti of the Organization of American States and the United Nations,

Welcoming the technical assistance for the institutional development of the Haitian National Police given by the United Nations Development Programme and other members of the international community,

Noting that, despite the efforts of the Government to improve the situation of human rights in Haiti, in respect of which some progress has been reported, serious problems still persist, relating mainly to the system for the administration of justice,

Noting with concern that the prolonged absence of a Prime Minister has had adverse consequences for the situation of human rights, as stated in the report of the independent expert,

Reiterating the hope that the Haitian people will, at the earliest possible date, be able to fully express their will through free, fair and transparent elections,

Welcoming the decision of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to travel to Haiti on mission in November 1998,

1. *Expresses its thanks* to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Haiti and the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti for their continuing efforts in favour of the consolidation of democratic institutions in Haiti and the respect for human rights in that country;

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of Haiti to distribute throughout the country, with the support of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti, the report of the National Commission of Truth and Justice of February 1996 and to initiate legal action in serious cases;

3. *Encourages* the Government of Haiti to continue its work on the reform of the judicial system, underlining the priority of that reform in the framework of the bilateral and multilateral assistance provided by the international community, including the United Nations Development Programme, and in this connection calls upon all sectors of Haitian society concerned to adopt coordinated measures with a view to the enhancement of the system for the administration of justice, which is essential to ensure respect for human rights;

4. *Calls upon* the Haitian authorities to mobilize the political will for the pursuit of reform and for the strengthening of the judicial system and the improvement of the country's prisons;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* at the prolonged political stalemate, which presents considerable risks for democracy, economic and social development and respect for human rights, and in this regard urges the authorities and

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[389] Resolution 217 A (III).

[390] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[391] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[392] A/53/355, annex.

[393] A/53/530.

political leaders to continue their efforts to resolve the crisis so that the appointment of a Prime Minister may be ratified by the Parliament without further delay;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the putting into operation by the Government of Haiti of the Office of the Ombudsman, and invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to contribute to its strengthening through a programme of technical cooperation, so that it may develop into a national institution for the promotion of human rights, open to wide participation by civil society;

7. *Invites* the international community, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to continue their involvement in the reconstruction and development of Haiti, having regard for the fragility of the political, social and economic situation of the country;

8. *Encourages* the Government of Haiti to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[390] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[394] and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[395]

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/160. Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[396] the International Covenants on Human Rights[397] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Mindful that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[397] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[397] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[398] as well as to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[399]

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/61 of 21 April 1998,[400]

Having considered the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[401] and taking note of the report of the Investigative Team of the Secretary-General charged with investigating serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[402]

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the impact of the current conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the situation of human rights in that country and its adverse effects on the civilian population;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;[401]

3. *Expresses its concern* at the deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, aggravated by the ongoing conflict in the country and the continuing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular cases of summary and arbitrary execution, disappearances, torture, beatings, arbitrary arrest and detention without trial, sexual violence against women and children and the use of child soldiers;

4. *Urges* all parties to the conflict to take the necessary measures to prevent all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by forces under their command and to abstain from inciting ethnic hatred and from persecuting civilians on the grounds of nationality or ethnicity;

5. *Supports* all regional efforts aiming at a peaceful settlement of the conflict;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to comply with its obligations under international human rights instruments to which the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a party and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Stresses* the need for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons within the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

8. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross unhindered access to all persons detained within the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and calls upon other parties to allow access also;

9. *Stresses* the need to lift restrictions on the work of non-governmental organizations and to ensure respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression and for the right to freedom of association;

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[394] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[395] See resolutions 2200 A (XXI), annex, and 44/128, annex.

[396] Resolution 217 A (III).

[397] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[398] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[399] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[400] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap II, sect. A.

[401] E/CN.4/1998/65 and Corr.1.

[402] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/581, annex.

10. *Recalls and welcomes* the expressed commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to a process of democratization, leading, through the establishment of democratic institutions and the holding of elections, to the creation of a State based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, including representative and accountable government, and calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to create conditions that would allow for a democratization process that is genuine and inclusive and fully reflects the aspirations of the people of the country;

11. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Constitutional Commission, inaugurated on 5 November 1997, and its elaboration of a new draft Constitution, and encourages a broad and sustained public debate on the principles of the new Constitution before the holding of a referendum;

12. *Welcomes also* the expressed commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reforming and restoring the efficacy of the judicial system, and calls upon the Government to take all necessary measures in this regard;

13. *Recalls* the report of the Investigative Team of the Secretary-General charged with investigating serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[402] and calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate, without delay, the allegations contained in the report of the Investigative Team and to bring to justice any persons found to have been involved in massacres, atrocities or other violations of international humanitarian law;

14. *Regrets* the lack of cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Special Rapporteur, and urges the Government to allow the Special Rapporteur to visit the country;

15. *Welcomes* the activities of the Human Rights Field Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to extend full cooperation to its operations;

16. *Calls upon* the international community to provide assistance in the field of human rights, in particular to the Human Rights Field Office with a view to reinforcing its capacity to continue to monitor and report on the situation of human rights throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to support the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo towards strengthening the rule of law and the administration of justice, and to provide the necessary assistance with respect to building national capacity, especially to support and strengthen non-governmental human rights organizations;

17. *Underlines* the need to take human rights considerations fully into account in any settlement of the conflict;

18. *Decides* to continue to examine the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and requests the Special Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/161. Situation of human rights in Nigeria

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[403] the International Covenants on Human Rights[404] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Recalling that Nigeria is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[405] the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[406] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[407] as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[408]

Recalling its previous resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Nigeria,

Welcoming the positive contribution Nigeria has been making through the Economic Community of West African States in support of democratic governance within the West African region,

Noting the encouraging positive steps taken by the Government of Nigeria, which deserve full support and have been welcomed by the people of Nigeria as well as the international community, including the Commonwealth and the European Union,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Nigeria;[409]

2. *Welcomes* the announcement by General Abdulsalami Abubakar of a new programme of transition to civilian rule, and notes with satisfaction the commitment of the Government of Nigeria to fully restoring democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the concrete steps taken to date to implement the programme of transition, and looks forward to further measures in this regard;

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[403] Resolution 217 A (III).

[404] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[405] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[406] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[407] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[408] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[409] See A/53/366 and Add. 1.

4. *Expresses its full support* to the Government of Nigeria in the important process of building a peaceful and stable Nigeria rooted in the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights;

5. *Welcomes* the fact that the Government of Nigeria is reviewing remaining decrees, and urges it to repeal urgently those which have an impact on the fundamental human rights of its citizens;

6. *Encourages* all sectors of Nigerian society to participate actively and constructively in the process of democratization and the re-establishment of civilian rule;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the issuance of a detailed timetable for the election process, to be completed with the holding of presidential elections on 27 February 1999 and the handing over to a civilian government on 29 May 1999;

8. *Welcomes* the invitations extended by the Government of Nigeria to the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the European Union to provide electoral assistance and to observe the elections at all levels so as to ensure the credibility of the electoral process;

9. *Welcomes also* the declared commitment of the Government of Nigeria to protect freedom of expression, in particular freedom of the press, and notes with interest the first steps taken to reform laws governing the media;

10. *Welcomes further* the release of political prisoners, including the twenty detainees from Ogoni, and expresses the hope for swift clarification of cases still pending;

11. *Stresses* that the establishment and strengthening of national structures and institutions in the field of human rights are of the utmost importance for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria;

12. *Commends* the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria for its important work, and encourages the Government of Nigeria to provide the Commission with adequate resources and to respect fully its independence;

13. *Calls upon* all States and the organizations of the United Nations system to support generously the ongoing transitional process in Nigeria, in particular the electoral process and the strengthening of national capacity in the field of human rights, and to respond positively to requests for technical assistance and advisory services;

14. *Welcomes* the decision of the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Government of the United States of America to start lifting sanctions on Nigeria in the light of the progress made towards the restoration of democratic government and respect for human rights;

15. *Calls upon* the Government of Nigeria to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights[404] and other human rights instruments in the implementation of the programme of transition and beyond;

16. *Also calls upon* the Government of Nigeria to follow up the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;

17. *Welcomes* the invitation to visit the country extended to the Special Rapporteur;

18. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Nigeria with a view to concluding it at its fifty-fourth session in the light of further developments and relevant decisions of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December1998

53/162. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[410] the International Covenants on Human Rights[411] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government,

Recalling its resolution 52/137 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992,[412] in which the Commission, *inter alia*, decided to nominate a special rapporteur with a given mandate, and taking note of Commission resolution 1998/63 of 21 April 1998,[413] in which the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Gravely concerned that the Government of Myanmar still has not implemented its commitment to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the results of the elections held in 1990,

Noting the contact between the Government of Myanmar and the National League for Democracy, but regretting the failure of the Government of Myanmar to engage in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups,

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[410] Resolution 217 A (III).

[411] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[412] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[413] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Noting with concern that the Government of Myanmar has not permitted a visit by the special emissary of the Secretary-General,

Noting with deep regret the continuing failure of the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur,

Gravely concerned at the continuing and consistent violations of human rights in Myanmar, as reported by the Special Rapporteur,

Noting with grave concern the content of the report of the Commission of Inquiry of the International Labour Organization,[414] appointed in March 1997 in accordance with article 26 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, regarding the observance by Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), which indicates a widespread and systematic use of forced labour imposed by the military on the civilian population,

Recalling the observation made by the Special Rapporteur that the absence of respect for the rights pertaining to democratic governance is at the root of all the major violations of human rights in Myanmar,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for his interim report;[415]

2. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with all United Nations authorities and bodies, in particular and without further delay with the Special Rapporteur, and to ensure his access to Myanmar, without preconditions, in order to establish direct contact with the Government and all other sectors of society to allow him to discharge his mandate fully;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his report,[416] and notes with concern the observations contained therein;

4. *Deplores* the continuing violations of human rights in Myanmar, including extrajudicial and arbitrary executions, rape, torture, inhuman treatment, mass arrests, forced labour, forced relocation and denial of freedom of expression, assembly, association and movement, as reported by the Special Rapporteur;

5. *Notes with deep concern* the increased restrictions on the freedom of movement and the large numbers of arbitrary detentions and harassment of political activists, including elected representatives to the Parliament, and urges the Government of Myanmar to permit unrestricted communication with and physical access to Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, and to protect their physical well-being;

6. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to release immediately and unconditionally detained political leaders and all political prisoners, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation;

7. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar urgently to expand and intensify its contacts with the National League for Democracy with a view to engaging in a substantive political dialogue with the General Secretary of the League, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic and other groups, as the best means of promoting national reconciliation and the full and early restoration of democracy;

8. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar, taking into account its assurances given at various times, to take all necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy in accordance with the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990 and to ensure that political parties and non-governmental organizations can function freely, and in this context notes that the National League for Democracy recently established a committee to represent the Parliament temporarily;

9. *Also strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to take all appropriate measures to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[410] and to accelerate the process of transition to democracy, in particular through the transfer of power to democratically elected representatives;

10. *Further strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association, movement and assembly, the right to a fair trial and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, to put an end to violations of the right to life and integrity of the human being, to the practices of torture, abuse of women, forced labour and forced relocations and to enforced disappearances and summary executions, and to fulfil its obligations to end the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, including members of the military, and to investigate and prosecute alleged violations committed by government agents in all circumstances;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to implement fully the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur;

12. *Welcomes* the accession by the Government of Myanmar to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[417] and appeals to the Government of Myanmar to consider becoming a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[411] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[411] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment[418] and the

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[414] See A/53/364, annex, paras. 41–49.

[415] A/53/364, annex.

[416] A/53/657.

[417] Resolution 34/180.

[418] Resolution 39/46, annex.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[419]

13. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations with regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[420] as set out in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;[421]

14. *Also strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations as a State party to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), of the International Labour Organization, and to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry of the International Labour Organization regarding the implementation of the Forced Labour Convention, and encourages further communication between the Government and the International Labour Organization;

15. *Stresses* the importance for the Government of Myanmar to give particular attention to improving the conditions in the country's jails and to allow the competent international humanitarian organization to communicate freely and confidentially with prisoners;

16. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar and other parties to the hostilities in Myanmar to respect fully the obligations under international humanitarian law, including article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[422] to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to protect all civilians, including children, women and persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, from violations of humanitarian law and to avail themselves of such services as may be offered by impartial humanitarian bodies;

17. *Expresses concern* that the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and the lack of stability, have resulted in flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, and may have further negative effects on those countries, and therefore calls upon the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions to ensure an end to the movements of refugees to neighbouring countries and to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return and their full reintegration, in conditions of safety and dignity;

18. *Welcomes* the recent visits to Myanmar by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the purpose of discussions with the Government and with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to engage in a broader and more regular dialogue with the Secretary-General and to facilitate access by his representative to all sectors of society in Myanmar;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government of Myanmar, and to submit additional reports to the General Assembly during its fifty-third session on the progress of those discussions, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/163. Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind all relevant resolutions on this subject, in particular Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/79 of 22 April 1998,[423] as well as all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolution 53/164 of 9 December 1998 on the situation of human rights in Kosovo,

Reaffirming the obligations of all Member States under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[424] the obligations of States parties under the International Covenants on Human Rights[425] and all other human rights instruments and the obligation of all to respect international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war[426] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[427] as well as the principles and commitments undertaken by participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Reaffirming also the territorial integrity of all States in the region, within their internationally recognized borders,

Expressing its full support for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[428] which, *inter alia,* committed the parties of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to respect human rights fully, and the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern

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[419] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[420] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[421] CRC/C/15/Add.69.

[422] United Nations, *Treaty Series,* vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[423] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No.23* (E/1998/3), chap. II, sect. A.

[424] Resolution 217 A (III).

[425] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[426] United Nations, *Treaty Series,* vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[427] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[428] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995,* document S/1995/999.

Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (the "Basic Agreement"),[429]

Expressing its disappointment at the continuing evidence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms taking place to varying degrees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and, in particular, the failure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to follow the recommendations of the personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Welcoming all contributions of the Office of the High Representative, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Community Monitoring Mission, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the area in 1998,

1. *Calls* for the full and consistent implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement")[428] and the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (the "Basic Agreement")[429] by all parties to those agreements;

2. *Stresses* the crucial role of human rights in the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement, and underlines the obligations of the parties under the Peace Agreement to secure for all persons within their jurisdiction the highest level of international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Stresses also* the need to focus international human rights efforts in the region on the core issues of the lack of full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals without distinction, the rule of law and effective administration of justice at all levels of government, the freedom and independence of the media, freedom of expression, freedom of association, including with respect to political parties, freedom of religion and freedom of movement;

4. *Stresses further* the need for enhanced international human rights efforts to foster and effect the prompt and voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity;

5. *Calls* for an immediate end to illegal and/or hidden detention by all parties, in particular the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and requests the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to investigate any and all allegations of hidden detentions;

6. *Calls upon* all parties and States in the region to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights and effective, functioning democratic institutions will be central elements in the new civilian structures, as reaffirmed at the meetings of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council and the Peace Implementation Conference;

7. *Urgently calls upon* all States and all parties to the Peace Agreement that have not done so to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, as required by Security Council resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993 and all subsequent related resolutions, including with respect to surrendering persons indicted by the International Tribunal, urges all States to cooperate fully with the Tribunal and its organs, including with respect to their obligation to comply with requests for assistance or orders issued by a Trial Chamber, by helping to ensure that persons indicted by the Tribunal stand trial before it, and urges the Secretary-General to support the Tribunal to the fullest extent possible;

8. *Strongly condemns* the continuing refusal of the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as well as those responsible in the Republika Srpska, to comply with their obligation to arrest and transfer to the custody of the International Tribunal those indicted persons known to be present in their territories or territories under their control, *inter alia*, Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic, Milan Martic, Mile Mrksic, Miroslav Radic and Veselin Sljivancanin, and urges all parties to the Peace Agreement to comply fully with their obligations and to intensify their efforts in this regard;

9. *Welcomes* the fact that thirty-four persons indicted by the International Tribunal have been brought to justice;

10. *Calls upon* all parties to the Peace Agreement to take immediate steps to determine the identity, whereabouts and fate of missing persons, *inter alia*, near Bugojno, Srebrenica, Zepa, Prijedor, Sanski Most and Vukovar, including through close cooperation with the United Nations as well as with humanitarian organizations and independent experts, and stresses the importance of coordination in this area;

I. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

11. *Welcomes* the free and fair elections held on 12 and 13 September 1998 and the increase in political pluralism and freedom of expression through the participation by all groups and individuals, which represents another step towards democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

12. *Welcomes also* the progress made in some areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and in improving respect for human rights, as demonstrated by the important work of the Office of the Federation Ombudsmen, the detention and voluntary surrender of persons indicted by the International Tribunal, improvement in the freedom of movement in some areas, the establishment of fourteen "open cities", police restructuring and human rights training in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including in some parts of the Republika Srpska, increased cooperation with the

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[429] Ibid., document S/1995/951.

International Police Task Force and efforts towards and progress in support of free and independent media;

13. *Expresses its serious concern* about continuing human rights violations within Bosnia and Herzegovina and delays in the full implementation of the human rights provisions of the Peace Agreement, notably the delay in bringing legislation into compliance with the human rights provisions of the country's national Constitution, and in implementing that legislation;

14. *Urges* the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular those in the Republika Srpska, to ensure full and free access to their territories to all institutions and organizations concerned with the implementation of the present resolution, including non-governmental organizations, and to provide for the protection of those organizations, especially those providing humanitarian assistance;

15. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina (the "Commission") to intensify its activities concerning alleged or apparent discrimination or violations of human rights of any kind;

16. *Calls upon* all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to cooperate fully with the Commission, and specifically calls upon the Republika Srpska to increase its cooperation with the Commission;

17. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the complicity by local governments in the perpetration of violence against minority refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their homes and in the destruction of their homes, including acts of intimidation and all those acts designed to discourage the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and calls for the immediate arrest and bringing to justice of those responsible for such acts;

18. *Urges* all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina immediately to create conditions conducive to the voluntary return, in safety and with dignity, of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes, with equal emphasis on minorities, to pass quickly in Bosnia and Herzegovina the necessary legislation on property rights, to pursue the full and speedy implementation of new property and housing legislation enacted in the Republika Srpska in April 1998, to cooperate with and support the work of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons to resolve outstanding property claims, and to end practices of discrimination based on ethnic or political grounds;

19. *Calls upon* the authorities of both entities to cooperate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in matters relating to the return of refugees and to ensure that local authorities and groups comply with the obligations of the Peace Agreement;

20. *Calls* for the establishment without delay in the Republika Srpska of institutions for the protection of human rights, in particular a human rights ombudsman;

21. *Reiterates its call* to bring to justice the perpetrators of rape, notably where it was used as a weapon of war, and for adequate assistance and protection for victims of rape and the witnesses thereto;

II. REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

22. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the United Nations Civilian Police Support Group, both of which played an important role in the restoration of peace and stability in Eastern Slavonia, applauds the smooth and seamless transfer of monitoring responsibilities from the United Nations to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 16 October 1998, welcomes the cooperation of the Republic of Croatia in bringing those missions to a conclusion, and looks to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Government of the Republic of Croatia to build on the admirable work carried out by the United Nations in Eastern Slavonia;

23. *Welcomes also* the Programme for the Return and Accommodation of Displaced Persons, Refugees and Exiled Persons, established on 26 June 1998 in the Republic of Croatia,[430] as well as subsequent steps taken, and calls for their full, non-discriminatory and early implementation;

24. *Urges* the Republic of Croatia to implement fully its programme on the re-establishment of confidence, acceleration of return and normalization of living conditions in the war-affected areas of the Republic of Croatia and its refugee return programme in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and demands that the Republic of Croatia take immediate steps to facilitate the early voluntary return, in safety and with dignity, of all refugees and displaced persons, including minorities, to their homes in all regions, to use all available means to assure their safety and human rights, to resolve property rights issues within the framework of the rule of law and in conformity with international standards, to make a sustained effort to provide equal access to assistance in social and housing reconstruction, regardless of ethnicity, to continue to allow access to this population by humanitarian organizations and to maintain its cooperation with the civilian police monitors in Croatia mandated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

25. *Calls upon* the Government of the Republic of Croatia to undertake additional efforts to adhere to democratic principles and to continue its efforts to attain the highest level of compliance with international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially in regard to strengthening the independence of its judiciary, to freedom of association and assembly, and to the promotion and protection of free and independent media, in particular by providing for full freedom of expression in and access to all forms of media, including by the complete range of political parties;

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[430] Ibid., *Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/589, annex.

26. *Takes note* of the request of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for technical cooperation and assistance programmes and of the positive response thereto by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and looks forward to the effects of those programmes on the situation of human rights and the rule of law;

27. *Strongly urges* the impartial application of the law by the Republic of Croatia and the swift and complete implementation of judicial decisions for all citizens, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or political affiliation;

28. *Reminds* the Government of the Republic of Croatia of its primary responsibility to restore the multi-ethnic character of Croatia, including the pledge to guarantee the representation of national minorities, including Serbs, at various levels of local, regional and national government;

29. *Notes* that police performance has improved markedly since the beginning of the mandate of the Civilian Police Support Group and that the Government has taken steps to ensure that this continues;

30. *Calls upon* the Croatian authorities to prevent harassment, looting and physical attacks against displaced Serbs and other minorities and others, and speedily to arrest those committing or instigating such acts aimed at preventing the return of Croatian Serbs or others to their homes and, in particular, to address immediately any allegations of individual involvement by Croatian police or members of the military, whether on or off duty, through appropriate disciplinary proceedings, and calls upon the Government of the Republic of Croatia to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the amnesty law and to strengthen measures to end all forms of discrimination by Croatian authorities in the areas of property rights, employment, education, pensions and health care, among others;

III. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO)

31. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to end any torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons in detention, as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),[431] and to bring those responsible to justice;

32. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to institutionalize democratic norms, especially in regard to respect for the principle of free and fair elections, the rule of law, the administration of justice, the promotion and protection of free and independent media, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) specifically to repeal repressive laws on universities and the media;

33. *Demands* that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) immediately cease all harassment and hindrance of journalists, whatever their ethnicity or national origin and wherever within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) they may be practising their profession, repeal repressive laws on universities and the media, which suppress any and all internal dissent or expression of independent views, and concomitantly respect the right of free speech;

34. *Urges* all parties, groups and individuals in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to act with full respect for human rights, to refrain from all acts of violence and to act with respect for the rights and dignity of all persons belonging to minority groups;

35. *Strongly urges* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) immediately to bring to justice any persons, in particular those among its personnel, who have engaged in or authorized human rights abuses against the civilian population, including summary executions, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, indiscriminate destruction of property, mass forced displacement of civilians, the taking of civilian hostages, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and in this context reminds the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of its obligations to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

36. *Calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to revoke all discriminatory legislation and to apply all other legislation without discrimination against any ethnic, national, religious or linguistic group, to ensure the speedy and consistent investigation of acts of discrimination and violence against refugees and internally displaced persons, and to ensure the arrest and punishment of those responsible for acts of discrimination and violence;

37. *Also calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to respect the rights of all persons belonging to minority groups especially in the Sandjak and Vojvodina, and of persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority, and supports the unconditional return of the long-term missions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as called for by the Security Council in its resolutions 855 (1993) of 9 August 1993 and 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998;

38. *Further calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to respect the democratic process and to act immediately to make possible the establishment of genuine democratic self-governance in Kosovo, through a negotiated political settlement with representatives of the ethnic Albanian community, to cease all restrictions on freedom of expression or assembly, to ensure that all the residents of the region are guaranteed equal treatment and protection regardless of ethnic affiliation, and calls upon all individuals or groups in Kosovo to resolve the crisis there through peaceful means;

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[431] See A/53/322 and Add.1.

39. *Demands* that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) take immediate steps to allow for and to create conditions for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity;

40. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to cooperate fully with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations to alleviate the suffering of refugees and internally displaced persons and to assist in their unimpeded return to their homes;

41. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur,[431] in which concern is expressed about the continuing grave situation of human rights in Kosovo, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo,[432] while noting that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is allowing international verifiers into Kosovo;

42. *Welcomes* the establishment of a sub-office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Pristina in the context of the United Nations Field Operation in the Former Yugoslavia;

43. *Calls upon* States to consider additional voluntary contributions to meet the pressing human rights and humanitarian needs in the area, and underlines the need for continuing coordination among States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations of initiatives and programmes with the aim of avoiding duplication, overlap and working at cross-purposes;

44. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/164. Situation of human rights in Kosovo

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[433] the International Covenants on Human Rights[434] and other human rights instruments,

Taking note of Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998, 1199 (1998) of 23 September 1998 and 1203 (1998) of 24 October 1998, as well as the statement made on 24 March 1998 by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session[435] and Commission resolution 1998/79 of 22 April 1998,[436]

Taking fully into account the regional dimensions of the crisis in Kosovo, particularly with regard to the human rights and the humanitarian situation, and deeply concerned at the potential adverse consequences thereof,

Taking note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo[437] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),[438] which describe the persistent and grave violations and abuse of human rights and humanitarian law in Kosovo,

Gravely concerned about the systematic terrorization of ethnic Albanians, as demonstrated in the many reports, *inter alia*, of torture of ethnic Albanians, through indiscriminate and widespread shelling, mass forced displacement of civilians, summary executions and illegal detention of ethnic Albanian citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by the police and military,

Concerned about reports of violence committed by armed ethnic Albanian groups against non-combatants and the illegal detention of individuals, primarily ethnic Serbs, by those groups,

Stressing, in this context, the importance of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,

Distressed by the lack of due process in the trials of those ethnic Albanians who have been detained, charged or brought to trial in relation to the crisis in Kosovo,

Concerned by the grave infringements upon the freedom of expression in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), in particular the adoption of the new law on public information by the Serbian Parliament and the recent closure of several independent newspapers and radio stations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),

1. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to address the conflict and the ongoing human rights violations in Kosovo, as manifested by agreements signed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the international supervision of elections and verification of the implementation of human rights commitments;

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[432] A/53/563.

[433] Resolution 217 A (III).

[434] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[435] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. III, sect. E, para. 28.

[436] Ibid., chap. II, sect. A.

[437] A/53/563.

[438] See A/53/322 and Add.1.

2. *Welcomes also* the withdrawal and return to garrison of a number of military and police units, as demanded by the Security Council in its resolution 1199 (1998), but cautions that such withdrawals must be genuine, complete and lasting;

3. *Welcomes further* the establishment by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the Kosovo Verification Mission, and calls upon all parties in Kosovo to cooperate fully with the Mission and ensure the protection, freedom of movement and unrestricted access within Kosovo of its personnel;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the statement by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights,[435] regarding the status of the office in Belgrade, leading the way to the establishment of office premises for the Office of the High Commissioner and the deployment of additional human rights officers in Kosovo;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms fully and to abide by democratic norms, especially in regard to respect for the principle of free and fair elections, the rule of law, the administration of justice, free and fair trials and the promotion and protection of free and independent media;

6. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the ethnic Albanian leadership in Kosovo to condemn acts of terrorism, denounce and refrain from all acts of violence, encourage the pursuit of goals through peaceful means, and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights standards;

7. *Urges* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Kosovo Albanian leadership to enter immediately into a meaningful dialogue, without preconditions and with international involvement, and to commit themselves both to a clear timetable, leading to an end of the crisis, and to a negotiated political settlement of the issue of Kosovo, and welcomes the current efforts aimed at facilitating such a dialogue;

8. *Strongly condemns* the overwhelming number of human rights violations committed by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the police and military authorities in Kosovo, including summary executions, indiscriminate and widespread attacks on civilians, indiscriminate and widespread destruction of property, mass forced displacement of civilians, the taking of civilian hostages, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in breach of international humanitarian law including article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[439] and Additional Protocol II to the Conventions, relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts,[440] and calls upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take all measures necessary to eliminate these unacceptable practices;

9. *Condemns* the acts of violence, including kidnappings, by armed ethnic Albanian groups, in particular against non-combatants;

10. *Strongly condemns* the denial of appropriate access to Kosovo of non-governmental organizations, the manipulation and denial of relief and basic foodstuffs, and the denial of medical care to wounded civilians, calls upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take all measures necessary to eliminate these unacceptable practices forthwith, and recalls the commitment to allow unhindered access to humanitarian organizations and the need to facilitate the immediate return of internally displaced persons to their homes;

11. *Deeply deplores* the killing of humanitarian aid workers, as reported by the Secretary-General;[441]

12. *Calls upon* all parties, in particular those of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to clear the area forthwith of all landmines and booby-traps and to work with the relevant international bodies to this end;

13. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to comply with and build on the commitments made by the President of the Republic of Serbia in his statement of 13 October 1998, which were subsequently endorsed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);

14. *Also calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro):

(*a*) To establish a local police force in Kosovo under local or communal direction, which will be representative of the local population;

(*b*) To abide by the principle that no person will be prosecuted in state courts for crimes related to the conflict in Kosovo, except for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes covered by international law;

(*c*) To allow the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991and its forensic experts complete, unimpeded access to Kosovo to examine the recently alleged atrocities against civilians;

(*d*) To mitigate the punishments of and where appropriate to amnesty the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo sentenced for criminal offences motivated by political aims;

(*e*) To respect fully all the rights of individuals in Kosovo, whatever their ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds, so as to guarantee equitable treatment of their values and historic patrimony and so as to preserve and permit expression of their national, cultural, religious and linguistic identities in accordance with international standards and the Final Act of Helsinki of 1 August 1975;

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[439] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[440] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17513.

[441] See A/53/563, para. 6.

15. *Further calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to open to public observation all trials or criminal prosecutions against all those charged in relation to the conflict in Kosovo;

16. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to make possible the establishment of genuine democratic self-governance in Kosovo, through a negotiated political settlement with representatives of the ethnic Albanian community, as called for by the Security Council in its resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998), to include executive, legislative and judicial bodies and police, and in so doing to respect the rights of Kosovar Albanians and all who live in Kosovo, and expresses its support for an enhanced status for Kosovo, which would include a substantially greater degree of autonomy;

17. *Also calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to grant access to and free and unaccompanied movement within Kosovo for all humanitarian aid workers and international monitors;

18. *Further calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro):

(*a*) To promote and respect fully freedom of expression and freedom of the press, without discrimination;

(*b*) To repeal those legal measures used to discriminate against ethnic Albanians, including repressive laws on universities;

19. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and armed Albanian groups to refrain from any harassment and intimidation of journalists;

20. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to work closely with and support the mission to Kosovo of the personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and with the Kosovo Verification Mission;

21. *Also calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to investigate and prosecute in all cases where so warranted, notably those cases concerning its personnel, anyone suspected of torture and ill-treatment of persons held in detention;

22. *Further calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to release all political prisoners, to allow unimpeded access by non-governmental organizations and international observers to those prisoners who remain in detention, and to cease the persecution of political leaders and members of local human rights organizations;

23. *Calls upon* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and ethnic Albanian leaders to allow for and facilitate the free and unhindered return to their homes, in safety and with dignity, of all internally displaced persons and refugees, and expresses its concern about reports of continuing harassment or other impediments in this regard;

24. *Calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and all others concerned to guarantee the unrestricted access of humanitarian organizations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Kosovo, and to allow the unhindered delivery of relief items and ensure the safety and security of humanitarian, diplomatic and other affected personnel accredited to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including members of the Verification Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

25. *Encourages* the useful cooperation of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the ground, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo;[457]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue his humanitarian efforts in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), working through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, other appropriate humanitarian organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a view to taking urgent practical steps to meet the critical needs of the people in Kosovo, and to assist in the voluntary return of the displaced persons to their homes in conditions of safety and dignity;

27. *Encourages* the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal to continue investigations at all levels on serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Kosovo, and reaffirms that such crimes fall within its jurisdiction;

28. *Demands* that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Kosovo Albanian leadership and all others concerned cooperate fully with the International Tribunal and honour all their obligations towards it by, *inter alia*, providing full and free access to Kosovo for the investigators of the Tribunal;

29. *Reiterates its call* upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to live up to their commitment to provide financial and material assistance to those residents of Kosovo whose homes have been damaged;

30. *Emphasizes* that legislation on citizenship of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should be applied in accordance with the principles set out in relevant international instruments, in particular with regard to the standards and principles of the reduction and avoidance of statelessness;

31. *Also emphasizes* that improvement in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) will assist in establishing a full range of relations with the international community;

32. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to continue to monitor closely the situation of human rights in Kosovo, to pay special attention to Kosovo in his reporting and to report his findings to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

33. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Kosovo at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/165. Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[442] the International Covenants on Human Rights[443] and accepted humanitarian rules, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[444] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[445]

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[446] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[443] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[443] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[447] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[448] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[449] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[450]

Recalling also all its relevant resolutions, as well as the resolutions and presidential statements of the Security Council, the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan[451] and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Strongly condemns* the mass killings and systematic human rights violations against civilians and prisoners of war, and notes with alarm the escalating cycle of mass killings;

3. *Expresses its gravest concern* at numerous reports of mass killings in the areas of Mazar-e Sharif and Bamian by the Taliban;

4. *Condemns* the widespread violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person, freedom from torture and from other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom of opinion, expression, religious persuasion, association and movement and, in particular, the grave human rights violations against women and girls;

5. *Condemns also* the killing of Iranian diplomats and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency by Taliban combatants, as well as the attacks on and the killing of United Nations personnel in Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan, and calls upon the Taliban to fulfil their stated commitment to cooperate in urgent investigations of these heinous crimes, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;

6. *Notes with deep concern:*

(*a*) The worsening pattern of human rights violations in Afghanistan;

(*b*) The continuing and substantiated reports of human rights violations against women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban;

(*c*) The intensification of armed hostilities in Afghanistan and the increasingly ethnic and religious nature of the conflict, which have resulted in extensive human suffering and forced displacement, and which hinder the return of the internally displaced to their homes;

(*d*) The continued displacement of millions of Afghan refugees to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan;

(*e*) The lack of major reconstruction in Afghanistan;

7. *Notes with deep concern* the sharp deterioration of the humanitarian situation in several areas of Afghanistan, particularly in Hazarajat, and the worsening security conditions for United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, while taking note of the agreement reached between the Taliban and the United Nations on the security of United

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[442] Resolution 217 A (III).

[443] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[444] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[445] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[446] Resolution 260 A (III).

[447] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[448] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[449] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[450] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[451] A/53/539, annex.

Nations personnel in Afghanistan and calling for its full implementation;

8. *Calls upon* the Afghan parties to respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments;

9. *Urges* all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs;

10. *Urges* all the Afghan parties:

(*a*) To cease hostilities immediately and to work and cooperate fully with the Special Envoy and the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to achieving a ceasefire, thus laying the foundation for a comprehensive political solution leading to the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes in safety and dignity and to the establishment of a broad-based, fully representative Government through the full exercise of the right to self-determination of the Afghan people;

(*b*) To respect fully international humanitarian law, to protect civilians, to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to stop the laying of landmines, especially anti-personnel mines, to stop forced conscription and the drafting and recruitment of children as soldiers and to ensure their reintegration into society;

(*c*) To provide efficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations and abuses of human rights and of humanitarian law and to bring their perpetrators to trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards;

(*d*) To treat all suspects and convicted or detained persons in accordance with relevant international instruments and to refrain from arbitrary detention, including detention of civilian foreign nationals, and urges their captors to release them as well as non-criminal civilian prisoners;

11. *Demands* that all the Afghan parties fulfil their obligations regarding the safety of all personnel of diplomatic missions, the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as their premises in Afghanistan, and to cooperate fully and without discrimination on grounds of gender, nationality or religious persuasion with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations;

12. *Urges* all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring to an end without delay all human rights violations against women and girls and to take urgent measures to ensure:

(*a*) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women;

(*b*) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life;

(*c*) Respect for the right of women to work and their reintegration in employment;

(*d*) The right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(*e*) Respect for the right of women to security of person and that those responsible for physical attacks on women are brought to justice;

(*f*) Respect for freedom of movement for women;

(*g*) Reinstatement of full access to health care for women and girls;

13. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to proceed without delay to investigate fully reports of mass killings of prisoners of war and civilians, rape and other cruel treatment in Afghanistan, and calls upon the United Front and the Taliban to fulfil their stated commitment to cooperate with such investigations;

14. *Also invites* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give consideration to the proposal to deploy human rights observers in Afghanistan and to make detailed recommendations to that effect to the General Assembly;

15. *Appeals* to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other international organizations to resume the provision of humanitarian assistance to all in need as soon as the situation on the ground permits;

16. *Expresses its deep concern* at reports of attacks on and looting of cultural artifacts in Afghanistan, emphasizes that all parties share the responsibility to protect their common heritage, and requests all Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the looting of cultural artifacts and to ensure their return to Afghanistan;

17. *Urges* all the Afghan parties to extend their cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and to all those Special Rapporteurs who are seeking invitations;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

19. *Decides* to keep the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under consideration at its fifty-fourth session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/166. Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[452] as well as its subsequent resolutions on this matter, in particular resolution 52/148 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also paragraph 100 of section II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the five-year review of progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the need to pay special attention to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that the five-year implementation review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, carried out on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[453] has provided an opportunity to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, that their promotion and protection is the first responsibility of Governments, and that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Convinced that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the significant steps taken over the past five years at both national and international levels to implement the recommendations made by the World Conference on Human Rights,

Deeply concerned, however, about the wide gap that continues to exist between the promise of human rights and their promotion and protection worldwide, and deeply concerned also about denials and violations of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – including the right to development,

Reaffirming the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of all human rights and in humanitarian activities at the national, regional and international levels, and appreciating their contribution to increasing public awareness of human rights issues, to the conduct of education, training and research in this field, and to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by the United Nations system,[454]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[455] on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[452] and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Solemnly declares its commitment* to the fulfilment of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action ;

3. *Welcomes* agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council[456] on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and calls for their full implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action continues to constitute a solid foundation for further action and initiatives by States, the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations, as well as concerned national institutions and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights for all in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

53/167. Question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/83 of 24 April 1998[457] on the question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations, in which the Commission expressed its concern that, with the resources currently available from the United Nations regular budget, the High Commissioner would not be in a position to fulfil the full range of established and new mandates, and therefore appealed to the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to take all necessary steps, without delay, to secure for the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant components of the Organization regular budget resources for the current and future bienniums that would be sufficient to permit the effective fulfilment of the responsibilities and mandates established by Member States and commensurate with the importance assigned in the Charter of the United Nations to the promotion and protection of human rights,

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[452] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[453] Resolution 217 A (III).

[454] See E/1998/SR.32, 33, 36–38 and 47. For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Plenary Meetings*, 32nd, 33rd, 36th to 38th and 47th meetings.

[455] A/53/372, annex.

[456] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/53/3 and Corr.1), chap. VI, para. 3.

[457] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 1998/275 of 30 July 1998, in which the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/83, approved the appeal made by the Commission to the Council, the Secretary-General and the General Assembly,

Taking note further of other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly containing requests and proposals concerning the regular budget for the human rights programme,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps, without delay, to follow up Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/83 and Economic and Social Council decision 1998/275, in particular in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, without diverting resources from United Nations development programmes and activities;

2. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
9 December 1998

VI. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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53/3. Analysis of savings resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, and proposals pursuant to Assembly decision 52/462 of 31 March 1998

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolutions 51/167 of 16 December 1996 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and its decision 52/462 of 31 March 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of savings resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat,[1]

Having considered also the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular, in priority areas,

1. *Endorses* the proposals of the Secretary-General, contained in his report,[1] on the understanding that the amount to be utilized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should not exceed 5,526,600 United States dollars;

2. *Agrees* to the use of the amount of 1,088,000 dollars for the expenses of experts attending, in their personal capacity, expert meetings convened by the commissions of the Trade and Development Board in accordance with paragraph 114 of the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[3] on the understanding that:

(*a*) It would only involve a one-time expenditure within the framework of the biennium 1998–1999, made possible because of extra resources that have been allocated as a result of underspending;

(*b*) The financing of the expenses of the experts should not set a precedent regarding the financing from the regular budget of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of expenses of experts attending, in their personal capacity, expert meetings convened by the commissions of the Board, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development";

(*c*) Special consideration would be given to the needs of developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries;

3. *Invites* the Trade and Development Board to take a final decision, at its forty-fifth session from 12 to 23 October 1998, on the question of the selection, nomination and appointment of experts to participate in the expert meetings of its commissions, so as to enable the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out the activities foreseen without further delay;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of the activities financed from the unspent balance referred to in paragraph 1 above, and on how the accomplishments had contributed to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular, in priority areas;

5. *Considers* that significant savings have been achieved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as a direct result of decisions of the ninth session of the Conference, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat;

6. *Regrets* the lack of clear information concerning the savings achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat, and takes note, in this context, of the indication in paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] that an amount of 2 million dollars, which is part of the above-mentioned savings, could be traceable to the reduction in the conference-servicing requirements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development undertaken as a result of the ninth session, and agrees with the Advisory Committee that this information should have been reflected in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, comprehensive information on the savings, including the amount of 2 million dollars referred to in paragraph 6 above, resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat, as requested in its resolutions 51/167 and 52/220;

8. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question during the main part of its fifty-fourth session.

36th plenary meeting
12 October 1998

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[1] A/52/898 and Corr.1.

[2] A/53/7/Add.2. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

[3] See A/51/308.

53/11. Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/243 of 15 September 1997, 52/217, 52/218 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 52/234 and 52/248 of 26 June 1998,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

1. *Reaffirms* that the circumstances in which the Secretary-General can accept gratis personnel should be in strict compliance with paragraphs 4 (*a*) and (*b*) of General Assembly resolution 51/243;

2. *Notes* that the decrease in type II gratis personnel is continuing, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 9 of resolution 51/243;

3. *Notes with concern* that the information provided by the Secretary-General fails to demonstrate the extent to which all gratis personnel accepted in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat provide very specialized expertise not available within the Organization, as is required under paragraph 4 (*a*) of resolution 51/243;

4. *Also notes with concern* the observation by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[6] that the cases of the acceptance of gratis personnel by the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, referred to in the reports of the Secretary-General,[7] contravene the provisions of resolution 51/243 which do not allow acceptance of gratis personnel on the grounds of failure by the Secretariat to recruit staff in an expeditious manner;

5. *Further notes with concern* that the extension of the deadline for the submission of applications for the replacement of type II gratis personnel has resulted in cases of differential treatment among Member States;

6. *Takes note* of the commitment and assurances of the Secretary-General that the recruitment process for the replacement of type II gratis personnel, including those in the two international tribunals, will be completed by 28 February 1999, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 52/234 and 52/248;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve further the planning and implementation mechanism in human resources management in a transparent manner and secure the independent and efficient work of the Secretariat pursuant to Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that recruitment for any new posts arising from the phase-out of gratis personnel is carried out on as wide a geographical basis as possible with due regard to gender;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the phase-out of type II gratis personnel at its resumed fifty-third session.

43rd plenary meeting
26 October 1998

53/12. Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 50/221 A of 11 April 1996, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, 51/239 B of 15 September 1997, 51/243 of 15 September 1997 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[8] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 52/234 and 52/248 of 26 June 1998;

2. *Takes note with deep concern* of the observations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[10] to the effect that little had been done to meet the explicit concerns of the Advisory Committee concerning the quality of information provided by the Secretary-General and that the lack of a reply to requests for clarification or additional information in particular areas had affected a specific recommendation of the Committee;

3. *Notes with concern* that the extension of the deadline for the submission of applications for the replacement of type II gratis personnel has resulted in cases of differential treatment among Member States;

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[4] A/C.5/52/54/Rev.1 and A/C.5/52/56.

[5] A/53/417.

[6] Ibid., para. 8.

[7] A/C.5/52/51, paras. 4 and 5, and A/C.5/52/56, para. 4.

[8] A/52/837 and Corr.1.

[9] A/52/892 and A/53/418.

[10] A/53/418.

4. *Takes note* of the commitment and assurances of the Secretary-General that the recruitment process for the replacement of type II gratis personnel, including those in the two international tribunals,[11] will be completed by 28 February 1999, in accordance with its resolutions 52/234 and 52/248;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision contained in paragraph 16 of its resolution 52/248 to approve four hundred support account-funded temporary posts for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when determining the allocation of the four hundred support account-funded temporary posts, including the six additional posts, to take into account the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[10] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 a comprehensive review of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, addressing particularly the differences between its functional responsibilities and those of the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, and further to develop the concept for its employment during the initial phase of a new peacekeeping operation, as mentioned by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in paragraph 101 of its report,[12] referred to by the Advisory Committee in its report,[13] and address the issues raised and comments and observations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

8. *Decides* to establish, within the level of the four hundred support account-funded temporary posts approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, two civilian posts at the P–4 level (one Humanitarian Affairs Officer and one Civilian Police Officer) for a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and to revert to the issue of the other proposed positions in the context of its consideration of the information requested in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Takes note* of the observations contained in paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[10] and decides to establish one post at the P–4 level for the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat;

10. *Regrets* that a comprehensive review of the issues raised in its resolutions 50/221 B, 51/239 A and B and 52/248 has not been carried out, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, to give a detailed account of the implementation of these and the current resolutions, including the revised structures of those departments involved in backstopping peacekeeping operations, redeployment, duplication, overlap, fragmentation, the evolution in peacekeeping trends, changes in workload and other issues raised by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 8, 15, 27, 34, 35 and 41 of its report,[10] and to report to the General Assembly thereon.

43rd plenary meeting
26 October 1998

53/18. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara,[14] and taking note of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[15]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1204 (1998) of 30 October 1998,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/228 B of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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[11] International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

[12] A/53/127.

[13] See A/53/418, para. 15.

[14] A/52/730/Add.2 and Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.2.

[15] A/53/474.

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 15 October 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 69,886,177 United States dollars, representing 21 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 21 September 1998, notes that some 17 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[15]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the additional amount of 37,250,460 dollars gross (34,445,260 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, taking into account the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 under the provisions of its resolution 52/228 B;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) already apportioned for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 under the terms of its resolution 52/228 B, to apportion the additional amount of 37,250,460 dollars gross (34,445,260 dollars net) for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999 among Member States, at a monthly rate of 4,656,307.50 dollars gross (4,305,657.50 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 17 December 1998;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 2,805,200 dollars approved for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

50th plenary meeting
2 November 1998

53/19. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan[16] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[17]

Recalling Security Council resolution 968 (1994) of 16 December 1994, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission of Observers, the latest of which was resolution 1167 (1998) of 14 May 1998,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1138 (1997) of 14 November 1997, by which the Council authorized the Secretary-General to expand the size of the Mission of Observers,

Recalling further its resolution 49/240 of 31 March 1995 on the financing of the Mission of Observers and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/229 B of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission of Observers are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission of Observers, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

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[16] A/52/772/Add.2.

[17] A/53/474.

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission of Observers,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission of Observers with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan as at 15 October 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 9.2 million United States dollars, representing some 22 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission of Observers to the period ending 31 October 1998, notes that some 16 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission of Observers in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[17]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission of Observers is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Mission of Observers against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, for the maintenance of the Mission of Observers, for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, the amount of 11,984,880 dollars gross (11,128,880 dollars net), in addition to the initial amount of 8,015,120 dollars gross (7,587,120 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998, inclusive of an amount of 415,120 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, already appropriated and assessed under the terms of its resolution 52/229 B;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 8,015,120 dollars gross (7,587,120 dollars net) already apportioned under the terms of resolution 52/229 B, to apportion the additional amount of 11,984,880 dollars gross (11,128,880 dollars net) for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999 among Member States, at a monthly rate of 1,498,110 dollars gross (1,391,110 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission of Observers beyond 15 November 1998;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the additional estimated staff assessment income of 856,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission of Observers in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan".

50th plenary meeting
2 November 1998

53/20. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force[18] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 983 (1995) of 31 March 1995, by which the Council decided that the United Nations Protection Force within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should be known as the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, and 1186 (1998) of 21 July

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[18] A/53/437.

[19] A/53/481.

1998, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 28 February 1999,

Recalling also its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/245 of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S–IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force as at 15 October 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 22.7 million United States dollars, representing 19 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 30 June 1999, notes that some 19 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[19]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

8. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force the amount of 29 million dollars gross (28,170,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, in addition to the amount of 21,053,745 dollars gross (20,580,245 dollars net) already appropriated under the provisions of its resolution 52/245;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 21,053,745 dollars gross (20,580,245 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with its resolution 52/245, to apportion the additional amount of 12,315,418 dollars gross (11,920,452 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999 among Member States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 394,966 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 July 1998 to 28 February 1999;

11. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion, among Member States, the amount of 16,684,582 dollars gross (16,250,348 dollars net) for the period from 1 March to 30 June 1999 at a monthly rate of 4,171,145.50 dollars gross (4,062,587 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for 1999, as set out in resolution 52/215 A, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 28 February 1999;

12. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 434,234 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 March to 30 June 1999;

13. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force".

50th plenary meeting
2 November 1998

53/29. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone[20] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[21]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone for an initial period of six months, until 13 January 1999,

Recognizing that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1181 (1998),

1. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone in full and on time;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[21]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Observer Mission;

6. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 22 million United States dollars gross (21,279,800 dollars net) for the establishment and operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the cost of deploying military and civilian personnel in the amount of 783,700 dollars gross (768,100 dollars net) for the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998 and of the amount of 10,624,200 dollars gross (10,409,500 dollars net) previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 13 July to 13 November 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Observer Mission;

7. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 12,926,600 dollars gross (12,610,300 dollars net) among Member States for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 January 1999 in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

8. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 316,300 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 January 1999;

9. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 9,073,400 dollars gross 8,669,500 dollars net) among Member States for the period from 14 January to 30 June 1999 at a monthly rate of 1,620,250 dollars gross (1,548,125 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 13 January 1999;

10. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) , there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in

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[20] A/53/454.

[21] A/53/654.

paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 403,900 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 14 January to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone".

64th plenary meeting
20 November 1998

53/36. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

A

The General Assembly,

Noting the requests of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[22] the Republic of the Congo[23] and Iraq[24] for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its decision 53/406 B of 7 October 1998, by which it decided to grant to Georgia and to Guinea-Bissau a temporary waiver under Article 19 of the Charter for a period of three months,

Recalling also its resolution 52/215 B of 22 December 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Committee to hold a special session of one week's duration as early as possible in 1999 to consider representations from Member States with respect to the application of Article 19 of the Charter and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session pursuant to rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. *Invites* Member States to submit detailed information to the Committee in explanation of their requests as soon as possible so as to facilitate the work of the Committee;

4. *Decides* to consider the report of the Committee on this matter as soon as possible after the issuance of that report.

72nd plenary meeting
30 November 1998

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997,

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to bear the expenses of the United Nations, as apportioned by the General Assembly, in conformity with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the fundamental principle that the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned among Member States broadly according to their capacity to pay, as specified in rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[25]

1. *Urges* all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without imposing conditions, to avoid the financial difficulties being experienced by the United Nations;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Contributions to continue its consideration of the elements of the methodology for the scale of assessments for the regular budget of the Organization at its fifty-ninth session and to make a consolidated set of recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[25]

Recalling its resolution 52/215 B of 22 December 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Contributions to continue its consideration of the application of Article 19 of the Charter;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its fifty-ninth session, to consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the possibilities for tightening the application of Article 19 of the Charter;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to review the procedural aspects of the consideration of requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter, in particular modalities for dealing with such requests received when the Committee is not in session and to make recommendations to the General Assembly in this respect before the end of its fifty-third session;

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[22] A/C.5/53/23, annex.

[23] A/C.5/53/24, annex.

[24] A/C.5/53/28, annex.

[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/53/11).

5. *Further requests* the Committee to consider further and to make recommendations, as appropriate, on the issues raised in paragraph 28 of its report, including measures to encourage the timely, full and unconditional payment of assessed contributions, pursuant to its general mandate under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 14 A (I) of 13 February 1946.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/36 A of 30 November 1998 and its decisions 53/406 A and B of 7 October 1998,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to apply equal and non-discriminatory treatment when considering requests from Member States for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

E

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-eighth session,[25]

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions on the assessment of non-member States, contained in paragraph 102 of its report;

2. *Requests* the Committee to consider further the view set out in paragraph 99 of its report, taking into account the actual participation of as well as the benefits enjoyed by non-member States in United Nations activities.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

53/204. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Having considered, for the period ended 31 December 1997, the financial reports and audited financial statements of the United Nations,[26] United Nations peacekeeping operations (for the period ended 30 June 1997),[27] the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[28] the United Nations University,[29] the United Nations Development Programme,[30] the United Nations Children's Fund,[31] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[32] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[33] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[34] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[35] the United Nations Population Fund,[36] the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,[37] the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,[38] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[39] the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors,[40] the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors[41] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[42]

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the measures taken or to be taken to implement the current recommendations of the Board of Auditors,[43] and of the responses of the executive heads of the United Nations organizations and programmes to the recommendations of the Board,[44]

Commending the Board of Auditors for carrying out its reviews in a comprehensive and efficient manner, in line with regulation 12.5 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations,

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[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/53/5), vol. I, chaps. I and V.

[27] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/52/5), vol. II, chaps. I and V.

[28] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/53/5), vol. III, chap. IV.

[29] Ibid., vol. IV, chaps. I and V.

[30] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* (A/53/5/Add.1), chaps. I and IV.

[31] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* (A/53/5/Add.2), chaps. I and IV.

[32] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/53/5/Add.3), chaps. I, IV and V.

[33] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/53/5/Add.4), chaps. I, IV and V.

[34] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/53/5/Add.5), chaps. III and IV.

[35] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/53/5/Add.6), chaps. I, IV and V.

[36] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/53/5/Add.7), chaps. I, IV and V.

[37] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/53/5/Add.8), chaps. I, IV and V.

[38] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/53/5/Add.9), chaps. I, IV and V.

[39] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/53/5/Add.10), chaps. I and IV.

[40] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/51/5), vol. I, chaps. II and III; ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/52/5), vol. II, chaps. II and III; ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/53/5), vol. III, chaps. I and II; and vol. IV, chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* (A/53/5/Add.1), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* (A/53/5/Add.2), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/53/5/Add.3), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/53/5/Add.4), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/53/5/Add.5), chaps. I and II; ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/53/5/Add.6), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/53/5/Add.7), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/53/5/Add.8), chaps. II and III; ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/53/5/Add.9), chaps. II and III; and ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/53/5/Add.10), chaps. II and III.

[41] See A/53/217.

[42] A/53/513.

[43] A/52/879 and A/53/335.

[44] A/53/335/Add.1.

Expressing concern about the persistence of problems and defects in the financial administration and management of the United Nations observed by the Board of Auditors,

Emphasizing the need to improve implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as approved by the General Assembly,

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors regarding the above-mentioned organizations, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Also accepts* the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes with serious concern* that the Board of Auditors has qualified its audit opinion on the financial statements of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes mentioned in paragraph 3 above to take steps to rectify the situation in order to avoid another qualification during the next audit;

5. *Approves* all the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and endorses the comments thereon contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[42] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure timely implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3 to 5 of its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998;

7. *Decides* to consider specific issues, as appropriate, under the agenda item entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" at its resumed fifty-third session.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

53/205. Results-based budgeting

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform",

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on results-based budgeting[45] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[46]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

2. *Reaffirms also* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, in particular financial regulation 4.5;

3. *Reaffirms further* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

4. *Reaffirms* paragraph 21 of its resolution 51/221 B of 18 December 1996, in which it decided that no changes to the budget methodology, to established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations could be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with agreed budgetary procedures;

5. *Stresses* that any proposal to be considered by the General Assembly on results-based budgeting should:

(*a*) Address the needs and reflect the characteristics of the United Nations;

(*b*) Not be a budget-reduction exercise;

(*c*) Not be a staff-reduction exercise;

6. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 should be prepared and submitted for its consideration in accordance with existing budgetary procedures and processes;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, the prototype fascicles, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 4 of its report;[46]

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, for consideration at its fifty-fourth session, through the Advisory Committee, a comprehensive and analytical report on his proposal on results-based budgeting, which should include, *inter alia*, the following elements:

(*a*) A comparative study of present budgetary procedures and the proposed results-based budgeting, which should, *inter alia*, show very clearly the differences and similarities between the two systems;

(*b*) Justification for the proposed change from the present budgetary arrangements to results-based budgeting;

(*c*) Identification of weaknesses in present budgetary procedures and in the Administration that hinder implementation of those procedures;

(*d*) Identification of measures needed to improve current budgetary procedures;

(*e*) An indication of the regulations, procedures and information systems that should be in place if the proposal on results-based budgeting is approved by the General Assembly;

(*f*) Demonstration of the applicability of the concepts of results-based budgeting, including "expected results" and "performance indicators", to all sections of the programme budget of the United Nations;

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[45] A/53/500 and Add.1.

[46] A/53/655.

(*g*) A sharper and clearer definition of the terms "objective", "output", "results", "performance indicator" and "performance measurement";

9. *Emphasizes* that Member States should continue to be fully involved, as at present, in the budgetary process, in accordance with existing United Nations regulations, rules and budgetary procedures;

10. *Decides* that, until the General Assembly decides otherwise, detailed information on post and non-post requirements should continue to be provided to the Assembly and the Advisory Committee to enable them to take appropriate and informed decisions on the budget proposals;

11. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to undertake an analytical and comparative study of the experience of the bodies of the United Nations system that are implementing an approach similar to results-based budgeting and to submit its report no later than 31 August 1999;

12. *Requests* the Advisory Committee, when preparing its report on the proposed results-based budgeting, to take into account the report referred to in paragraph 11 above;

13. *Recognizes* the international, multilateral character of the Organization, and emphasizes that the quantitative results expected should not be the sole basis for the justification of resource requirements;

14. *Stresses* the role of Member States in carrying out a thorough analysis of resource allocation to all sections of the programme budget;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the above-mentioned comprehensive and analytical report, to take into account the provisions of the present resolution.

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53/206. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2000–2001

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 in which it, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2000–2001,[47] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[48] and the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[49]

Having considered also the report of the Secretary-General on issues related to additional expenditures, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, inflation and currency fluctuation,[50] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[51]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[52] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[49]

2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(*a*) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(*b*) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(*c*) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(*d*) The size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

5. *Reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to provide adequate resources for the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

7. *Decides* that the anticipated reduction of 19.8 million United States dollars related to compensating economies should not be included in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2000–2001;

8. *Recognizes*, furthermore, that efforts to achieve efficient utilization of resources constitute an ongoing process and should not adversely affect the implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

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[47] A/53/220.

[48] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part two, para. 28.

[49] A/53/718 and Corr.1.

[50] A/C.5/51/57.

[51] A/52/7/Add.2. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[52] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16).

9. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General in his report on additional expenditures,[53] and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in its report,[54] that provision should be made in the budget outline for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

10. *Decides* that the preliminary estimate of resources for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 should therefore include a provision for special political missions, in the amount of 86.2 million dollars at revised 1998–1999 rates, which should be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, and that additional requirements shall continue to be treated in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of 2,545 million dollars at revised 1998–1999 rates;

12. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

13. *Reiterates* that the priorities for the biennium 2000–2001 as determined by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 are the following:

(*a*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*b*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all sources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

15. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely at 19.1 million dollars, and that this amount is in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and is to be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

53/207. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 51/219 of 18 December 1996,

Having examined the proposed revisions submitted by the Secretary-General[55] concerning the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001,[56]

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-eighth session,[57]

Having considered also the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[58] priority-setting within the medium-term plan[59] and the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997,[60] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[61]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-eighth session;[57]

2. *Notes* the appreciable efforts made at the thirty-eighth session of the Committee to improve the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate;

3. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

4. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations contained in part one, chapter V, of the report of the Committee on the work of its thirty-eighth session, and looks forward to their implementation;

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[53] A/C.5/51/57, para. 6.

[54] A/52/7/Add.2, para. 7. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[55] A/53/6 (Progs. 1–3, 5–8, 13/Rev.1, 14–18, 20, 23 and Corr.1, 24 and Corr.1 and 26–28).

[56] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

[57] Ibid. *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16).

[58] A/53/133.

[59] A/53/134.

[60] A/53/122 and Add.1.

[61] A/53/90.

I

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998–2001

1. *Reaffirms* regulation 4.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with this regulation;

2. *Adopts* the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 submitted by the Secretary-General,[55] as amended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination;[62]

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the consultative process with Member States;

4. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing and improving the quality of the medium-term plan and its revisions;

5. *Regrets* that revisions to some programmes of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 were not reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures, including ad hoc measures, and to submit proposals, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, so as to enable the Main Committees of the General Assembly, as well as the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, effectively to review the relevant portions of the medium- term plan or its revisions, with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report, in accordance with the existing mandates of the General Assembly, on possible arrangements for post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, as well as on the transition from relief to development, maintaining the distinct nature of both activities, for consideration by the relevant Main Committees of the Assembly and intergovernmental bodies;

II

PRIORITIES

1. *Stresses* the importance of priority-setting as an integral part of the planning, programming and budgeting process;

2. *Decides* that priorities shall continue to be established in the medium-term plan, which is the principal policy directive of the United Nations, and shall guide the allocation of resources in subsequent programme budgets through the mechanisms provided for in General Assembly resolution 41/213;

3. *Decides also* that priorities contained in the budget outline shall be in conformity with the priorities in the medium-term plan;

4. *Emphasizes* that priorities, once established by the General Assembly, cannot be changed or altered unless it so decides;

III

REGULATIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PROGRAMME PLANNING, THE PROGRAMME ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET, THE MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. *Approves* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[63] on the revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to prepare revisions to the relevant rules and to bring them to the attention of the General Assembly through the Committee before promulgation;[64]

IV

NEW NARRATIVES OF THE PROGRAMME BUDGET

Approves the new programme narratives for section 7A, Economic and social affairs[65] and section 26, Public information,[66] subject to the modifications recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination[67] and also to the provisions of the present resolution;

V

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997[60] and the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination thereon, subject to the provisions below;

2. *Notes with concern* the late submission of the programme performance report, and urges the Secretary-General to submit the report in future to all Member States by the end of the first quarter following completion of the biennial budget period, in accordance with regulation 6.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

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[62] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, chap. II.B, and part two, chap. III.A.

[63] Ibid., part two, para. 52.

[64] Ibid., para. 53.

[65] E/AC.51/1998/6 (Sect. 7A) and Corr.1.

[66] E/AC.51/1998/6 (Sect. 26).

[67] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, paras. 192 and 208.

3. *Recalls* section II, paragraph 13, of its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, in which it decided to keep the vacancy rate at 6.4 per cent during the biennium 1996–1997, and in this context expresses its deep concern at the high vacancy rate and its adverse impact in some areas of programme delivery;

4. *Reaffirms* that the vacancy rate is a tool for budgetary calculations and should not be used to achieve budgetary savings;

5. *Deeply regrets* the use of vacant posts for consultancies and short-term appointments during the biennium 1996–1997;

6. *Notes with appreciation* that the United Nations, in particular the regional commissions, provided development-related advisory and technical support to Member States during the biennium 1996–1997, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend such services during the current biennium, in accordance with existing mandates;

7. *Reaffirms* the right of Member States to seek the support and assistance of the United Nations, individually and collectively, in the regional and subregional context, in their efforts to promote developmental activities;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for greater interaction between the regional commissions and the respective regional organizations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the regional commissions provide technical assistance to Member States, including through their respective regional organizations;

10. *Notes* the efforts made to improve the quality of the programme performance report and to review performance within the context of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, and stresses that in future reports more emphasis should be placed upon qualitative analysis to reflect achievements in implementing programme activities;

11. *Reaffirms* regulation 4.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and reiterates that resources should be utilized strictly for the purposes approved by the General Assembly;

12. *Notes with concern* that some of the findings contained in the programme performance report for the biennium 1996–1997 are ambiguous and contradictory and that therefore some of the conclusions remain vague and general in nature;

13. *Also notes with concern* that the programme performance report for the biennium 1996–1997, in some instances, commented on actions which did not conform with the resolutions of the General Assembly;

14. *Further notes with concern* that some resources were redeployed to fund activities that had not been approved in the programme budget for the biennium 1996–1997, while a number of mandated programmes and activities, particularly in priority areas, were postponed, curtailed or cancelled;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of paragraph 57 of the programme performance report for the biennium 1996–1997,[68] to report with clear evidence on the impact of the reform of the Organization and restructuring of the Secretariat on programme delivery during the biennium 1998–1999 in the context of the report on the programme performance of the United Nations for that biennium;

16. *Notes* the finding in the programme performance report for the biennium 1996–1997 that programme managers, in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the relevant regulations and rules, have managed to minimize the adverse effect of financial constraints and achieved high rates of implementation in some areas;

17. *Recognizes* the need for effective systems at the intergovernmental and departmental levels to ensure that activities correspond to the mandates reflected in the medium-term plan and programme budgets, as well as the need to monitor and evaluate the quality of performance;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit proposals for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-ninth session on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to convey the reasons for the further postponement of the delivery of outputs to the biennium 1998–1999 and the opinion of relevant intergovernmental bodies on the proposal by the Secretary-General to delete fifty-seven outputs carried over from the biennium 1994–1995, for consideration at its current session;

20. *Notes* that the proposals requested in paragraph 50 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 have not been submitted, and, in this context, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to enhance the role and participation of all relevant departments, in particular the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, in the preparation of future programme performance reports;

VI

EVALUATION

1. *Stresses* the importance and necessity of further improving evaluation and integrating it into the cycle of programme planning, budgeting and monitoring with a view to improving and strengthening programme formulation and implementation;

2. *Also stresses* that the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation provide a sound basis for effective monitoring and evaluation if implemented in all parts of the Organization;

3. *Approves* the addition of the programmes on policy coordination and sustainable development and on population to the schedule of in-depth evaluations to be submitted to the

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[68] A/53/122.

Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-first session;

4. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee[69] on the in-depth evaluations of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session on the start-up phase of the evaluation of peacekeeping operations;[70]

5. *Decides* to forward to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of the programme on environment;[71]

6. *Emphasizes* that guidelines on programme monitoring and evaluation should be in conformity with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

VII

OTHER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[72] regarding the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997,[73] the progress reports on implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996–2001,[74] and on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.[75]

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53/208. Pattern of conferences

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, 48/222 A of 23 December 1993, 49/221 A of 23 December 1994, 50/206 A of 23 December 1995 and 51/211 A of 18 December 1996 and section A of resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, and its decision 52/468 of 31 March 1998,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Committee on Conferences,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,[76]

1. *Takes note with concern* of the observations of the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 135 of its report, and encourages members to participate in the work of the Committee;

2. *Invites* the Committee on Conferences to consider the question of the participation of observers in the work of the Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Committee on Conferences, and takes note of its report;

4. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1999 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[77] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

5. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1999 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the conference services required as a result of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking into account, as necessary, the procedures established by the Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

7. *Reaffirms* its decision that the headquarters rule shall be adhered to by all bodies;

8. *Decides* that waivers to the headquarters rule shall be granted solely on the basis of the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations recommended by the Committee on Conferences for adoption by the General Assembly;

9. *Invites* all its subsidiary bodies that are authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to keep under review the exception to the headquarters rule in the light of their current work situation and to report any changes to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

10. *Notes with appreciation* that the Secretariat took into account the arrangements referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of section A of General Assembly resolution 52/214 and that

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[69] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, paras. 225–230, 239–241 and 250–253.

[70] E/AC.51/1998/2 and Corr.1, E/AC.51/1998/3 and E/AC.51/1998/4 and Corr.1.

[71] E/AC.51/1998/5 and Corr.1.

[72] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, paras. 285–288, 301–310 and 323–333.

[73] E/1998/21.

[74] E/CN.6/1998/3.

[75] E/AC.51/1998/7.

[76] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/53/32 and Corr.1).

[77] Ibid., annex.

the two holidays of Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1999 on 18 January and 29 March, respectively, shall be observed as official holidays of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure strict implementation of those arrangements when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the Organization;

11. *Decides* that United Nations bodies should be invited to avoid holding meetings on 9 April 1999 and that this arrangement should be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

12. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to consider, at its next session, the proposal that United Nations bodies should avoid holding meetings on lunar New Year's Day;

13. *Emphasizes* that, when planning the calendar of conferences and meetings, every effort should be made to avoid simultaneous peak periods at the various duty stations, and requests the Secretariat, when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings, to merge into one section the draft list of meetings of treaty bodies established under the auspices of the United Nations and the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the principal organs of the specialized agencies;

14. *Also emphasizes* the importance of providing adequate conference-servicing resources to all United Nations conference centres;

15. *Notes with appreciation* that the overall utilization factor for 1997 exceeded the benchmark of 80 per cent, in particular at Geneva and Vienna;

16. *Notes* the efforts by the Secretary-General to improve utilization rates of the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi for 1996 and 1997;

17. *Expresses concern* that the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi are still underutilized, as recorded during the period 1996–1997;

18. *Reiterates its call* for better utilization of the conference facilities at Nairobi;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the fact that the United Nations Office at Nairobi has been upgraded to a full-fledged United Nations centre, to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent interpretation service at the centre and to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the practices currently used to meet interpretation requirements, to examine the provision of interpretation services to other locations from permanent interpretation structures based in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, taking into account the request contained in paragraph 19 above for the establishment of a permanent interpretation service at Nairobi;

21. *Invites* all subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Human Settlements and encourages Member States, intergovernmental bodies and regional and other major groupings to consider increasing their use of the conference facilities at Nairobi;

22. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to assist the aforementioned bodies in improving this situation, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Committee on Conferences, on the actions taken to this end;

23. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences to continue to consult with those bodies that consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources for the past three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources;

24. *Requests* that the Chairperson of the Committee on Conferences transmit a letter to the chairpersons of all bodies that utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure (80 per cent) of their allocated conference resources in the previous year, informing them of the problem and drawing their attention to the significant loss of meeting time, with a view to encouraging appropriate action on their part so as to improve the utilization of conference resources;

25. *Notes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of sessional bodies, in view of the increased requests for meetings of regional and other major groups, and welcomes the fact that 81 per cent of the requests for such meetings were met;

26. *Notes with concern* the difficulties experienced by some Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

27. *Regrets* that 19 per cent of the requests for interpretation services made by regional and other major groupings of Member States were not met, while recognizing that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced as a priority;

28. *Decides* to include all necessary resources in the budget for the next biennium to provide interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Committee on Conferences, a report on the implementation of this decision;

29. *Urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify the conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States;

30. *Deeply regrets* that the reports requested in paragraphs 9 and 15 of section A of its resolution 52/214 were

not submitted to the General Assembly, and notes, in this context, that those reports were presented only in an oral form to the Committee on Conferences;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the reports requested in paragraphs 9 and 15 of section A of its resolution 52/214 before 31 March 1999, and decides, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 8 (*a*) of its resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995, that an oral report cannot substitute for a report requested by the General Assembly;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the use of remote interpretation and translation will not affect the quality of interpretation and translation and will not in itself lead to a reduction of language posts;

33. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on possible measures to alleviate the excessive vacancy rates in language services at some duty stations and ensure the required quality of conference services Secretariat-wide;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts aimed at filling vacancies in language services at all duty stations;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, when filling the posts of translators and interpreters, irrespective of the proposed contractual status of candidates, to take duly into account their professional qualifications, including pre-job training and experience, in order to maintain at all times the highest possible quality in the interpretation and translation services, and to ensure the equal treatment of language units of the Secretariat;

36. *Stresses* that the quality of interpretation in the six official languages should be improved in accordance with its resolution 52/214, and decides that the standards that govern the staffing of the interpretation booths shall continue to be observed;

37. *Welcomes* the new organizational structure of conference services, which will allow for more effective coordination among the four United Nations conference-servicing centres in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to review the administrative instruction of 8 May 1987[78] on guidelines for the preparation of host Government agreements falling under General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 so as to reflect the new organizational structure.

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B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/202 B of 22 December 1992, 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, 50/206 B and C of 23 December 1995, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 51/211 F of 15 September 1997 and section B of its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[79] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[80] on translation issues,

1. *Expresses deep concern* about deficiencies in the quality of some reports and documents originating in the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to address the situation and to develop measurements to evaluate improvements made in the quality of reports and documents;

2. *Notes with deep concern* the low rate of compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation;

3. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to carry out a study on the possible relationship between the late issuance of documentation and the low utilization of conference services by some bodies;

5. *Regrets* that there continue to be delays in the submission of documents to the conference services, expresses concern that most of the delay in the issuance of a document is due to the late submission of documents from the substantive departments, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that substantive departments prepare their programme of work to meet the deadline for the issuance of documents;

6. *Reaffirms* its decision that, if a report is issued late, the reasons for the delay should be indicated when the report is introduced;

7. *Regrets* that its decision taken in paragraph 5 of its resolution 50/206 C has not been implemented;

8. *Decides* that if a report is submitted late to the conference services, the reasons for this should be included in a footnote to the document;

9. *Endorses* the request of the Committee on Conferences to the Secretariat that a report containing detailed data on the reasons for delays in the issuance of documentation and an analysis of the additional costs incurred by document-processing services and of other financial implications of the late submission and issuance of documents be presented to the Committee at its 1999 substantive session;

10. *Notes with concern* that the provisions of paragraphs 24 and 25 of section B of its resolution 52/214 are not always being implemented, despite reiteration of these provisions in its decision 52/471 of 31 March 1998;

11. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments to include, where appropriate, the following elements in reports originating in the Secretariat:

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[78] ST/AI/342.

[79] A/53/221.

[80] See A/53/507.

(*a*) A summary of the report;

(*b*) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(*c*) Relevant background information;

12. *Reiterates* that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat and expert bodies for consideration and action should have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

13. *Stresses once again* that press releases should reflect accurately the statements of Member States as delivered in their original languages;

14. *Notes with concern* that the provisions of paragraphs 1.21 and 1.22 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001[81] are not being implemented, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the Secretariat conducts consultations and coordinates the assignment of responsibilities for the implementation of all General Assembly resolutions and decisions and follows up to ensure timely action by relevant departments and bodies;

15. *Stresses once again* the need for compliance with existing page limits, and invites all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of further reducing the length of their reports from thirty-two to twenty pages without adversely affecting either the quality of presentation or the content of the reports;

16. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to make its procedures for obtaining waivers to the sixteen-page rule more rigorous, while maintaining, however, the necessary degree of flexibility, with a view to encouraging author departments to reduce the length of their submissions while maintaining high standards of quality;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit to the Committee on Conferences, every two years, updated information on the number and length of documents;

18. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue consultations with the secretariats of intergovernmental bodies with a view to informing them on the speedy issuance of unedited verbatim transcripts and the cost savings derived therefrom, and encouraging them to follow the example of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in carrying out the experiment with unedited verbatim transcripts, so as to enable the Committee on Conferences to make final recommendations on the matter;

19. *Emphasizes* that the choice of unedited verbatim transcripts should be consistent with the needs of the bodies concerned;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of the translation of documents into the six official languages in a timely manner;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that summary and verbatim records are issued in all six official languages concurrently;

22. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, where appropriate, to introduce new technologies such as machine-assisted translation and common terminology databases while ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the quality of documentation and translation;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Secretariat to address the concerns expressed by delegations on translation-related matters, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve quality and proficiency in all six translation services;

24. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision by the Secretariat to reduce the utilization of self-revision to the recommended level so as to ensure the desired quality of parliamentary texts, and emphasizes that the measures taken in relation to the revision of job descriptions, the training of staff, peer review and spot checks and other related initiatives should be continued;

25. *Expresses concern* over continued high rates of self-revision during peak workload periods and occasional inadequate translations, which have sometimes hampered the work of delegations, and emphasizes the importance of continuous training for all translators at all duty stations and of developing measures to provide translators with increased support from submitting offices and secretariats;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the post of reviser is provided in the six official languages in accordance with paragraph 19 of section B of its resolution 52/214 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

27. *Stresses* that the United Nations should maintain a permanent interpretation and translation system capable of responding to its average workloads;

28. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue its efforts to ensure effective linguistic quality control through to the final stage of document production and distribution and to report to the Committee on Conferences on the steps taken in that regard;

29. *Regrets* the difficulties being faced by language service staff in relation to their career development;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session analysing such problems as may exist related to career development in language services and taking into account the fact that the numbers and grade levels of staff should be commensurate with the needs of the Organization as well as the fact that requirements differ between languages as well as between duty stations;

31. *Recommends* that due account should be taken of returns in terms of, *inter alia*, possible savings and efficiency gains in planning new technology;

32. *Also recommends* that computer-assisted translation systems should be compatible with the existing computer

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[81] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

platforms used in the United Nations, that they should be upgradable to future technological developments such as speech recognition and remote access, and that the experience of all duty stations should be taken into account in their development;

33. *Takes note* of paragraph 62 of the report of the Committee on Conferences;[76]

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the impact of economy measures on the delivery of mandated conference services;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, when preparing budget proposals for conference services, to ensure that all necessary resources are proposed for such services, giving priority to redressing the inadequacies in the provision of conference services in the most efficient manner for continuous improvements in the quality and delivery of those services;

36. *Decides* to defer until its resumed fifty-third session consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[82] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon,[83] the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[84] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[85] on United Nations publications.

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C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/206 D of 23 December 1995, 51/211 C of 18 December 1996 and 51/211 F of 15 September 1997 and section C of its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[86] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[80] on access to the optical disk system,

Stressing the importance of equal access to, and benefit from, the optical disk system and other new technologies in all six official languages for all Member States and the need to overcome the difficulties faced by some Member States, in particular by developing countries, in acquiring the technology to access the optical disk system, as well as other available technologies,

Appreciating the actions taken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council to achieve universal connectivity between United Nations databases and those of Member States, including through their permanent missions, and the training programmes initiated to that end,

Appreciating also the efforts of the Secretary-General to incorporate new information technologies in the work of the Organization,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat to improve access to the optical disk system, particularly the establishment of additional centres for the optical disk system;

2. *Recognizes* the efforts to provide wider access to the optical disk system, while continuing to ensure the availability of hard copies of documents for Member States, in particular for developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all resolutions and decisions, and any annexes thereto, adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations are posted to the optical disk system expeditiously;

4. *Notes with appreciation* that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat launched a United Nations website in Russian, Arabic and Chinese this year;

5. *Stresses* the need for the continuous development, maintenance and enrichment of United Nations websites, with a view to achieving equal treatment of the six official languages on those websites;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit proposals in this connection to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences and the Committee on Information;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents, in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations are made available through the United Nations website daily and are accessible to Member States without delay;

8. *Notes* that, in addition to the free-of-charge connection, via the Internet, of all permanent and observer missions, requests have been received by the Organization for access to the optical disk system from a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Reaffirms* that, as provided for in its resolution 51/211 F, access to the optical disk system will continue to be provided free of charge to permanent and observer missions and other government offices of Member States, with a maximum of ten access passwords for each Member State, and that the optical disk system will continue to be made available to all staff of the Secretariat;

10. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 13 of its report[80] that a way be found, while maintaining the quality of service and priority given by the General Assembly to the users mentioned in paragraph 1 of its resolution 51/211 F, to apply income generated through optical disk system subscriptions directly to help to meet the cost of maintaining and/or expanding the optical disk system, and to

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[82] See A/51/946.

[83] A/52/685.

[84] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), part one, chap. IV.

[85] A/53/669.

[86] A/52/803.

establish a mechanism to monitor satisfaction with the optical disk system.

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D

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[87] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[80] on the cost-accounting system for conference services,

Stressing the need to provide Member States and United Nations bodies with more comprehensive and accurate information on the costs of meetings and documentation,

1. *Emphasizes* the need for the Secretariat to take into consideration the experience of all duty stations when improvements were made in existing information systems;

2. *Endorses* the view expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 10 of its report[80] that the report of the Secretary-General does not provide sufficient information at this stage to allow the General Assembly to endorse the full-fledged development of a cost-accounting system;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity, taking into account the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 10 of its report.

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E

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 38/401 of 23 September 1983 and section E of its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997 concerning the prohibition of smoking in small conference rooms and the discouragement of smoking in large conference rooms,

1. *Calls upon* representatives of Member States to abide by its decision 38/401 and section E of its resolution 52/214;

2. *Encourages* all users of United Nations conference facilities, in order to avoid involuntary exposure to passive smoking, to refrain from smoking, in particular in conference rooms.

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53/209. United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 1998[88] and other related reports,[89]

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Convinced that the common system constitutes the best instrument to secure staff of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity for the international civil service, as stipulated under the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission in the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

I

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF STAFF IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

A. *Noblemaire principle and its application*

Recalling its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989 and other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reconfirms* the continued application of the Noblemaire principle;

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to ensure the competitiveness of the conditions of service of the common system;

3. *Notes* the decision of the Commission to suspend total compensation comparisons until 2001, and requests the Commission to undertake the next study in 2001 to identify the highest paid national civil service, using the methodology endorsed by the General Assembly in a manner consistent with the United States/United Nations total compensation comparison;

B. *Evolution of the margin*

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 52/216 of 22 December 1997 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

Recalling also section IX, paragraph 3, of its resolution 46/191 A of 20 December 1991, in which it requested the

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[87] A/53/257.

[88] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 30* and corrigendum (A/53/30 and Corr.1).

[89] A/52/811, A/C.5/53/4 and A/C.5/53/27.

Commission to include in its work a review of the differences between the United Nations and the United States net remuneration at individual grade levels,

Recalling further section II.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 48/224 of 23 December 1993, wherein it considered that the Commission should address the imbalance in the United Nations/United States remuneration ratios in the context of overall margin considerations,

1. *Notes* the intention of the Commission, in the light of its previous recommendations with respect to the above request, to explore possible solutions to the problems of imbalances in the United Nations/United States net remuneration ratios at individual grade levels;

2. *Also notes* that the margin between net remuneration of United Nations staff in grades P–1 to D–2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service for 1998 is 114.8;

C. *Base/floor salary scale*

Recalling section I.H of its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

Approves, with effect from 1 March 1999, the revised base scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, contained in annex I to the present resolution, and the consequential amendment to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, as reflected in annex II to the present resolution;

D. *Treatment of expatriation*

Recalling section I.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 50/208 of 23 December 1995 and section I.E, paragraph 4, of its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996,

1. *Takes note* of the analysis and decisions of the Commission thereon, as contained in paragraphs 104 to 117 of its report;[88]

2. *Requests* the Commission to continue to develop its study in this area and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

E. *Common scale of staff assessment*

Recalling section III, paragraph 1, of its resolution 51/216, by which it approved, with effect from 1 January 1997, a revised staff assessment scale recommended by the Commission for determining the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff, and recalling that, in paragraph 2 of the same section, it requested the Commission to report on the impact of the differences in national and local tax rates at the seven headquarters duty stations on the gross pension benefits of locally recruited staff in the General Service and related categories at those duty stations in comparison with the compensation for such taxes provided by the common staff assessment rates,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusion of the Commission, as set out in paragraph 215 of its report,[88] that the current common staff assessment scale should continue to apply and should again be reviewed in 2000;

2. *Takes note also* of the conclusions of the Commission based on the comparison of the impact of the common staff assessment rates and local taxes on the levels of pensionable remuneration and consequent pensions of the General Service and related categories of staff, as reported in paragraph 224 of its report;

3. *Endorses* the view of the Commission, as set out in paragraph 225 of its report, that the local practice approach to determining pensionable remuneration of the General Service and other locally recruited categories of staff should not be pursued further;

F. *Dependency allowances*

Recalling section II.F of its resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992, in which it noted that the Commission would review the level of dependency allowances every two years,

Taking note that the review of dependency allowances by the Commission reflected relevant changes in tax abatement and social legislation at the seven headquarters duty stations since 1996, as contained in paragraph 119 of its report,[88]

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 1999, an increase of 14.6 per cent in the children's allowance (including the allowance for disabled children) and in the secondary dependant's allowance;

2. *Takes note* of the updated list of hard-currency duty stations for which the allowances are specified in local currency, as contained in annex III to the present resolution;

3. *Notes* that dependency allowances payable to eligible common system staff should be reduced by the amount of any direct payments received from a Government in respect of dependants;

4. *Requests* the Commission to undertake in 2000 an examination of the methodology, rationale and scope of the allowances;

G. *Post adjustment matters*

Operation of the post adjustment system

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 50/208 and section I.E of its resolution 51/216,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Commission regarding the operation of the post adjustment system at the base of the system, as contained in paragraph 140 of its report;[88]

2. *Requests* the Commission to continue to explore the feasibility of using outside data sources for the next round of place-to-place surveys;

Post adjustment at Geneva

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 50/208, section I.E of its resolution 51/216 and section I.D of its resolution 52/216 related to the establishment of a single post adjustment index in respect of staff members whose duty station is Geneva,

Requests the Commission, in the context of its preparation of the next round of place-to-place surveys, as referred to in paragraph 141 of its report,[88] to conduct a comprehensive review of the post adjustment system as a whole with a view to its reform, with the assistance of independent experts, if necessary, keeping in mind the need for cohesion within the common system, and to ensure that the post adjustment at each duty station, with particular emphasis on headquarters duty stations, is fully representative of the cost of living of all staff members in the Professional and higher categories working at each duty station, and to report thereon to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-fifth session;

II

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE APPLICABLE TO BOTH CATEGORIES OF STAFF

A. *Education grant*

Recalling section IV, paragraph 1, of its resolution 47/216 and section IV of its resolution 51/216, by which it endorsed the revised methodology for the determination of the education grant,

Recalling also section III.A, paragraph 1, of its resolution 52/216, by which it endorsed the modifications to the methodology and noted that the revised methodology would be taken into account beginning with the 1998 biennial review of the education grant,

1. *Approves* increases in the maximum reimbursement levels in the seven currency areas, as well as other adjustments to the reimbursement of expenses under the education grant, as contained in paragraph 190 of the report of the Commission;[88]

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission to review the methodology in 2001;

B. *Recognition of language knowledge*

Recalling section II.E of its resolution 48/224 of 23 December 1993, in which it requested the Commission to review the language incentive scheme of the United Nations and the schemes of the organizations of the common system,

Having considered the proposals of the Commission contained in paragraphs 207 to 209 of its report,[88] which would be implemented only after the General Assembly has agreed thereto,

1. *Notes* that a number of essential elements still remain to be resolved, including the rationale for recommending a change to the existing scheme, the degree to which such a change will continue to serve as an incentive for multilingualism in the organizations, the basis for determining the incentive amounts for both categories, and transitional measures;

2. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a comprehensive report covering all the elements raised, taking into account the acquired rights of the staff;

C. *Hazard pay*

Reiterating the expression of its appreciation for the dedication of increasing numbers of staff of the United Nations common system who are required to work under dangerous conditions,

Takes note of the decisions of the Commission contained in paragraph 236 of its report;[88]

D. *Standards of travel and per diem*

Recalling section III.D of its resolution 52/216,

Takes note of the decisions of the Commission regarding standards of travel and per diem, as outlined in paragraph 247 of its report;[88]

E. *Mission subsistence allowance*

Recalling section III.E of its resolution 52/216,

Takes note of the decisions of the Commission regarding various aspects of the system of mission subsistence allowance, as outlined in paragraph 260 of its report;[88]

III

THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COMMISSION

Recalling its resolutions 50/208, 51/216 and 52/216 concerning, *inter alia,* the consultative process and working arrangements of the Commission,

Recalling also that by its resolution 50/208 the General Assembly reaffirmed the statute of the Commission, in particular article 6 thereof, whereby its members shall perform their functions in full independence and with impartiality,

1. *Emphasizes* that the responsibility for the decisions taken by the Commission rests solely with the members of the Commission;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Commission in promoting a spirit of constructive cooperation and flexibility towards improving working relations with the staff bodies;

3. *Takes note* of the changes approved by the Commission to its rules of procedure and other procedural changes;

4. *Notes* that the changes approved by the Commission to its rules of procedure could enable all parties to ensure that their views are reflected during all phases of the consideration of all issues;

5. *Requests* the Commission to monitor the progress of the implementation of the revised rules of procedure and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

IV

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OTHER MATTERS

1. *Reaffirms* the statute of the Commission;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to adhere to the provisions of articles 3 and 4 of the statute of the Commission;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States to the provisions of article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Commission when presenting candidates for appointment to the Commission;

4. *Decides* to revert to issues related to the Commission, including its working methods, the respective roles of the Commission and its secretariat, the selection and appointment of members and the role of the Commission in the review process, in the context of the consideration of the recommendations by the Secretary-General for a review of the Commission at the resumed fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

V

FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Recalling its resolutions 51/216 and 52/216,

Convinced that the Commission must play a lead role in the development of innovative approaches in the field of human resources management as part of the overall reform currently taking place in the organizations of the common system,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Commission to examine a framework for human resources management;

2. *Invites* the Commission, as part of the planned review, to examine, *inter alia*, the reform initiatives by all organizations of the common system, as well as reform efforts outside the common system, the facilitation of inter-agency mobility and the introduction of specialist pay;

3. *Urges* the Commission to address speedily the request of the General Assembly regarding studies in the area of human resources management and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

VI

REPORT ON GENDER BALANCE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Recalling section VI of its resolution 47/216 and section III.H of its resolution 52/216, in which it urged the organizations of the common system to introduce a coherent plan for improving the status of women in each organization,

1. *Notes* the continuing work of the Commission to assist the organizations in achieving gender balance, and in particular welcomes its initiative in the areas identified under paragraph 290 of its report;[88]

2. *Endorses* the requests of the Commission to the organizations, as outlined in paragraphs 283 and 291 of its report, and urges all organizations to take steps to implement them as soon as possible;

3. *Notes* that the Commission will revert to this matter in 2001;

VII

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Recalling its request to the Board of Auditors to conduct a management review of all aspects of the work done by the secretariat of the Commission in time for the submission of a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Auditors on the management review of the secretariat of the Commission[90] and the response of the Commission contained in paragraph 37 of its report;[88]

2. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to conduct audits of the secretariat of the Commission on a periodic basis, in accordance with financial regulation 12.5 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the statute of the Commission.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

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[90] See A/52/811.

ANNEX I

Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalents after application of staff assessment*

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 March 1999)

		Steps														
Level		*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*V*	*VI*	*VII*	*VIII*	*IX*	*X*	*XI*	*XII*	*XIII*	*XIV*	*XV*
Under-Secretary-General																
USG	Gross	151 440														
	Net D	104 662														
	Net S	94 190														
Assistant Secretary-General																
ASG	Gross	137 683														
	Net D	95 995														
	Net S	86 926														
Director																
D-2	Gross	112 824	115 311	117 797	120 283	122 768	125 255									
	Net D	80 334	81 901	83 467	85 033	86 599	88 166									
	Net S	73 801	75 114	76 427	77 739	79 052	80 365									
Principal Officer																
D-1	Gross	99 848	101 948	104 047	106 142	108 243	110 346	112 476	114 605	116 732						
	Net D	72 068	73 410	74 751	76 090	77 432	78 773	80 115	81 456	82 796						
	Net S	66 615	67 793	68 970	70 146	71 324	72 493	73 617	74 741	75 864						
Senior Officer																
P-5	Gross	88 099	89 975	91 875	93 775	95 674	97 571	99 471	101 371	103 269	105 169	107 067	108 966	110 878		
	Net D	64 545	65 759	66 973	68 187	69 401	70 613	71 827	73 041	74 254	75 468	76 681	77 894	79 108		
	Net S	59 963	61 075	62 142	63 208	64 273	65 337	66 403	67 469	68 534	69 600	70 665	71 730	72 773		
First Officer																
P-4	Gross	72 631	74 438	76 257	78 085	79 917	81 743	83 573	85 403	87 232	89 060	90 898	92 756	94 606	96 459	98 311
	Net D	54 516	55 701	56 883	58 066	59 251	60 433	61 617	62 801	63 984	65 167	66 349	67 536	68 718	69 902	71 086
	Net S	50 767	51 856	52 940	54 024	55 111	56 194	57 279	58 364	59 448	60 533	61 594	62 636	63 674	64 713	65 753
Second Officer																
P-3	Gross	59 386	61 057	62 731	64 400	66 088	67 782	69 477	71 174	72 867	74 564	76 275	77 994	79 711	81 430	83 148
	Net D	45 777	46 888	48 001	49 111	50 224	51 335	52 447	53 560	54 671	55 784	56 895	58 007	59 118	60 230	61 342
	Net S	42 730	43 752	44 776	45 798	46 821	47 843	48 865	49 888	50 909	51 932	52 951	53 970	54 989	56 008	57 027
Associate Officer																
P-2	Gross	47 805	49 265	50 721	52 180	53 636	55 098	56 594	58 087	59 585	61 080	62 573	64 071			
	Net D	37 953	38 949	39 942	40 937	41 930	42 925	43 920	44 913	45 909	46 903	47 896	48 892			
	Net S	35 598	36 501	37 401	38 302	39 202	40 105	41 021	41 934	42 851	43 766	44 680	45 596			
Assistant Officer																
P-1	Gross	36 422	37 791	39 157	40 525	41 891	43 258	44 627	46 018	47 418	48 820					
	Net D	30 044	31 001	31 956	32 912	33 867	34 822	35 779	36 734	37 689	38 645					
	Net S	28 341	29 222	30 102	30 983	31 863	32 743	33 625	34 494	35 359	36 226					

D = Rate applicable to staff members with a dependent spouse or child.

S = Rate applicable to staff members with no dependent spouse or child.

* This scale will be implemented in conjunction with a consolidation of 2.48 per cent of post adjustment. There will be consequential adjustments in the post adjustment indices and multipliers at all duty stations, effective 1 March 1999. Thereafter, changes in post adjustment classifications will be effected on the basis of the movements of the consolidated post adjustment indices.

ANNEX II

Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

Regulation 3.3

Replace the second table in paragraph (b)(i) with the following:

	Staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross base salaries (percentage)	
Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	*Staff member with a dependent spouse or a dependent child*	*Staff member with neither a dependent spouse nor a dependent child*
First 15 000 per year	9.0	11.8
Next 5 000 per year	18.1	24.4
Next 5 000 per year	21.5	26.9
Next 5 000 per year	24.9	31.4
Next 5 000 per year	27.5	33.4
Next 10 000 per year	30.1	35.6
Next 10 000 per year	31.8	38.2
Next 10 000 per year	33.5	38.8
Next 10 000 per year	34.4	39.7
Next 15 000 per year	35.3	40.7
Next 20 000 per year	36.1	43.9
Remaining assessable payments	37.0	47.2

ANNEX III

Amounts of children's and secondary dependant's allowances for staff in the Professional and higher categories

(*effective 1 January 1999*)

Country or area	*Currency*	*Children's allowance*	*Secondary dependant's allowance*
Austria	Austrian schilling	28 256	10 438
Belgium	Belgian franc	70 189	22 448
Denmark	Danish krone	13 193	3 814
France	French franc	10 141	3 365
French Guiana	French franc	10 141	3 365
Germany	Deutsche mark	4 057	1 455
Ireland	Irish pound	1 145	375
Japan	Yen	398 701	181 125
Luxembourg	Luxembourg franc	70 189	22 410
Monaco	French franc	10 141	3 365
Netherlands	Netherlands guilder	4 472	1 523
Switzerland	Swiss franc	3 364	1 499
United States and the rest of the world	United States dollar	1 730	619

53/210. United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/224 of 23 December 1994 and 51/217 of 18 December 1996, and section V of its resolution 52/222 of 22 December 1997,

Having considered the reports of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 1998 to the General Assembly and to the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[91] the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund,[92] the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications for the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 arising from the report of the Board[93] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[94]

Expressing concern that the Board departed on several occasions from its long-established practice of reaching decisions by consensus,

I

ACTUARIAL MATTERS

Recalling section I of its resolution 51/217,

Having considered the results of the valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as at 31 December 1997 and the observations thereon of the Consulting Actuary of the Fund, the Committee of Actuaries and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[95]

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the improvement in the actuarial situation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, from an actuarial deficit of 1.46 per cent of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 1995 to an actuarial surplus of 0.36 per cent of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 1997, and, in particular, of the opinion provided by the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries, as reproduced in annexes IV and V, respectively, to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[96] that there was no requirement, as at 31 December 1997, for deficiency payments under article 26 of the Regulations of the Fund and that the current contribution rate of 23.7 per cent of pensionable remuneration could be maintained for funding purposes, pending a review at the time of the next valuation, as at 31 December 1999, and in the light of future developments;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assessment and views of the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries on the results of the actuarial valuation as at 31 December 1997;

3. *Takes note* of the review by the Board of the interest rate used to determine lump-sum commutations, and of the decision taken by the Board, under article 11 of the Regulations of the Fund, to change the current 6.5 per cent interest rate to 6 per cent, with respect to contributory service performed as from 1 January 2001, subject to a favourable actuarial valuation as at 31 December 1999, to be confirmed by the Board at its next session in 2000;

4. *Notes* that the Board intends to review, with the assistance of the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries, the changes that have been made in the United Nations pension system since 1983 as part of the measures approved by the General Assembly to redress the past actuarial deficit of the Fund, in the first instance in the Standing Committee of the Board in 1999, and then in the Board in 2000 in the light of the results of the actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 December 1999;

5. *Concurs* with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Board should continue to monitor closely the evolution of the actuarial valuation of the Fund and that no attempt should be made to reduce the present rate of contributions to the Fund or change any other features unless and until a pattern of surpluses emerges in future valuations;

6. *Requests* the Board, should there be a positive trend towards actuarial surpluses in future valuations, to consider favourably a reduction in the present contribution rate;

II

PENSION ADJUSTMENT SYSTEM

Recalling section III of its resolution 51/217,

Having considered the reviews carried out by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as set out in paragraphs 318 to 341 of its report,[96] of various aspects of the pension adjustment system,

1. *Notes* the results of the monitoring of the costs/savings of recent modifications of the two-track feature of the pension adjustment system and the intention of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to continue to monitor those costs/savings every two years, on the occasion of the actuarial valuations of the Fund;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Board to recommend to the General Assembly that the threshold for implementing cost-of-living adjustments of pensions in award be reduced from 3 per cent to 2 per cent, with effect from the adjustment due on 1 April 2001, subject to a favourable actuarial valuation as at 31 December 1999, to be confirmed by the Board at its session in 2000;

III

STATUS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Noting that the General Assembly had requested the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to provide information at its fifty-third session on developments in respect of the further steps envisaged under paragraph 5 of section IV of its resolution 51/217,

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[91] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 9* and addendum (A/53/9 and Add.1).

[92] A/C.5/53/18.

[93] A/C.5/53/3.

[94] A/53/511 and A/53/696.

[95] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 9* (A/53/9), sect. III.A.

[96] Ibid., *Supplement No. 9* (A/53/9).

Noting also that the Board has requested its Chairman and Secretary to intensify their efforts to gain the formal approval by the Government concerned of the proposed agreement and protocol thereto, as set out in paragraph 278 of the report of the Board,[96]

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Russian Federation concerning the problems that have arisen with regard to the implementation of the proposed agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, and notes the intention of the Government of the Russian Federation to pursue all of the outstanding issues;

2. *Encourages* all parties concerned to continue their efforts to resolve the problems addressed in section IV of its resolution 51/217, in particular those within the framework of the proposed agreement and protocol thereto;

IV

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Having considered the financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 1997, the audit opinion and report of the Board of Auditors thereon and the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[96]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 1997 indicated that the financial statements presented fairly, in all respects, the financial position of the Fund and that the transactions tested as part of the audit were, in all significant respects, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and legislative authority;

2. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the Board of Auditors[96] on the measures taken and under consideration to improve the administration of the Fund, including, in particular, measures to improve the procedures for verifying continuing eligibility for benefits from the Fund;

3. *Notes* the arrangements made for the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat to continue to carry out the internal audits of the Fund;

V

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND AND THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH THE OTHER MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Recalling section VII of its resolution 51/217 and section V of its resolution 52/222 concerning the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,

Having considered section VI of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[96] on the administrative arrangements between the Fund and the United Nations and with the other member organizations, and the comments thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[97]

Noting the current cost-sharing arrangements between the Fund and the United Nations and with the other member organizations, as set out in paragraphs 120 to 124 of the report of the Board,[96]

Taking note of the discussions in the Board and its conclusions on the administrative arrangements and on the proposed revised estimates for the administrative expenses of the Fund for the biennium 1998–1999, as set out in paragraphs 194 to 202 and paragraphs 228 to 244, respectively, of the report of the Board,[96]

1. *Takes note* of the information, set out in paragraphs 132 to 144 of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[96] on the services and facilities provided by the United Nations to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the local pension services provided by the secretariat of the Fund in respect of participants employed by the United Nations and its affiliated programmes, as well as the information on the services and facilities provided by the other member organizations in respect of participants employed by them;

2. *Approves* the revised cost-sharing arrangements between the United Nations and the Fund, as set out in paragraphs 154 to 166 of the report of the Board;[96]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete his consultations with the funds and programmes on the methodology for apportioning charges to the affiliated programmes for services rendered to the Fund on their behalf;

4. *Notes* the intention of the Board to continue to consider other possible arrangements for the allocation of the costs of the operations of the Fund, as between those to be charged against the assets of the Fund and those to be shared by the member organizations of the Fund, taking into account the views expressed in the Board and in the Fifth Committee;

5. *Also notes* the issues to be addressed by the Standing Committee of the Board in 1999, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, in respect of the computer services of the Fund, the enhancement of the role of its Geneva office, the overall staffing structure of the secretariat of the Fund and the need for additional office space;

6. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the secretariat of the Fund to ensure its preparedness in respect of the year 2000 issue in all its aspects, and encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard and to ensure that the new accounting system is fully operational in 1999;

7. *Takes note* of the analysis and conclusions on the respective responsibilities of the Secretary of the Board, as the chief executive officer of the Fund, for the administration of

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[97] A/53/511.

the Fund and those of the Secretary-General for the investments of the Fund, as set out in paragraphs 191 to 193 of the report of the Board;[96]

8. *Also takes note* of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraphs 25 to 28 of its report,[97] on the reclassification of the post of the Chief of the Investment Management Service of the Fund from the D-1 to the D-2 level, and on the level and title of the post of the Secretary of the Board;

9. *Approves*:

(*a*) The reclassification of the post of the Chief of the Investment Management Service to the D-2 level;

(*b*) The change in the title of the post of the Secretary of the Board to Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;

(*c*) The proposal that the level of remuneration and other conditions of service for the post of Chief Executive Officer of the Fund be set equivalent to those applicable to the Assistant Secretary-General level;

10. *Also approves* the additional resources recommended by the Board, involving additional expenses amounting to 4,161,700 United States dollars net for the biennium 1998–1999, chargeable directly to the Fund for its administration;

11. *Amends* article 7 of the Regulations of the Fund, regarding the post and title of the Secretary of the Board, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 28 of its report[97] and set out in the annex to the present resolution;

VI

ENTITLEMENT TO SURVIVORS' BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES AND FORMER SPOUSES

Recalling paragraph 4 of section VIII of its resolution 51/217,

Taking note of the further review undertaken by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board of issues related to the pension entitlements of spouses and former spouses, as set out in paragraphs 279 to 317 of its report,[96]

Welcoming the significant actions taken by the Board,

1. *Takes note* of the amendment to rule B.4 of the Administrative Rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund made by the Standing Committee of the Board at its 180th meeting, in July 1997, as set out in annex XIV to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[96] which entered into effect as from 1 August 1997;

2. *Approves*, with effect from the date of its adoption by the General Assembly, the amendment to article 45 of the Regulations of the Fund to provide for a payment facility in respect of former spouses, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Board to monitor the experience in implementing the payment facility and to report to the General Assembly, as necessary;

4. *Approves*, with effect from 1 April 1999, the inclusion of a new article in the Regulations of the Fund to provide for a divorced surviving spouse's benefit, subject to conditions regarding eligibility for the benefit and the determination of its amount, as set out in the text of the new article contained in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Notes* that the Standing Committee of the Board has been requested to review, at its meeting in 1999, the situation of divorced spouses who would not be covered by the proposed new article for reasons related to its prospective application;

6. *Approves*, with effect from 1 April 1999, the arrangement recommended for the optional purchase of surviving spouses' benefits in respect of marriages after separation from service, in accordance with the provisions of the new article set out in the annex to the present resolution;

7. *Also approves*, with effect from 1 April 1999, the amendments to article 34 to eliminate the current provision which requires discontinuation of a surviving spouse's benefit upon remarriage, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

8. *Notes* that the Standing Committee of the Board will consider, at its meeting in 1999, whether the change in paragraph 7 above might be extended to surviving spouses who had remarried prior to the effective date of the amendment;

9. *Encourages* the Board to continue its efforts in addressing these issues;

VII

APPLICATION OF THE INTERIM COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on its forty-ninth (special) session, submitted to the General Assembly and to the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[98] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[99] on the decision of 16 October 1998 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the Executive Committee of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization to authorize the Director-General of the World Trade Organization to inform the Fund that the Interim Commission wishes to apply for termination of its membership in the Fund on 31 December 1998, subject to the conclusion of satisfactory transfer arrangements with the Fund,

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[98] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 9*, addendum (A/53/9/Add.1).

[99] A/53/696.

Regretting the wish of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization to apply for termination of its membership in the Fund effective 31 December 1998,

1. *Notes* the wish of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization to apply for termination of its membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund effective 31 December 1998, in the light of the strong commitment of the General Assembly to preserving the United Nations common system of salaries and allowances;

2. *Also notes* that, in accordance with article 16 of the Regulations of the Fund, the data required for the determination of the proportionate share of the total assets of the Fund payable to the World Trade Organization as at the date of termination, including the relevant actuarial valuations, will not be available at the proposed date of termination;

3. *Further notes* that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, on the basis of the application of the methodology approved by the Board and agreed upon by the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization, has made a recommendation for the termination of the membership of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization in the Fund effective 31 December 1998;

4. *Draws the attention* of the members of the World Trade Organization that a staff member of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization ceasing participation in the Fund will have the possibility of electing to receive a benefit from the Fund and, at the same time, accepting an offer of employment in the secretariat of the World Trade Organization;

5. *Decides* to terminate the membership of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization in the Fund as at 31 December 1998, upon receipt by the Secretary of the Board of an unconditional written notification from the Director-General of the World Trade Organization to that effect, no later than 15 January 1999;

6. *Decides also* that the termination of the membership of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization is subject to receipt by the Secretary of the Board by 31 December 1998 of a written undertaking from the World Trade Organization that it will hold the Fund harmless from any and all claims against the Fund by Interim Commission participants, retirees or beneficiaries, arising from or relating to the termination of the membership of the Interim Commission in the Fund, as set out in paragraph 31 of the report of the Board on its special session;[98]

7. *Decides further* that the proportionate share of the assets of the Fund payable to the World Trade Organization upon the termination of the membership of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization shall be determined and remitted in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report of the Board[98] and that this shall represent a complete and final settlement of the amount payable as a result of the termination of the membership of the Interim Commission in the Fund;

VIII

OTHER MATTERS

1. *Takes note* of the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as set out in paragraphs 348 and 352 of its report,[96] on the review and conclusions reached by the International Civil Service Commission on the changes in average tax rates in the seven headquarters countries which formed the basis for the development of the current common scale of staff assessment for pensionable remuneration, and on the impact of the possible use of national tax rates to determine pensionable remuneration for staff in the General Service and related categories;

2. *Notes* that, as requested in section VIII of its resolution 51/217, the Board has continued its consideration of a possible amendment of article 40 (*a*) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in respect of the re-employment of retirees in receipt of benefits from the Fund under appointments of more than two but less than six months per calendar year;

3. *Concurs* that it would not be desirable to pursue a revision of article 40 (*a*) of the Regulations of the Fund at the present time, for the reasons set out by the Board in paragraphs 358 to 360 of its report,[96] leaving it to the member organizations of the Fund to determine their respective personnel policies in this regard, as has been done for the United Nations Secretariat by General Assembly decision 51/408 of 4 November 1996;

4. *Approves*, with effect from the date of adoption by the General Assembly, the amendments to articles 21 (*b*) and 32 (*a*) of the Regulations of the Fund, which relate to the time limit for linking periods of contributory service, if no benefit has been paid, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Takes note* of the other matters dealt with in section X of the report of the Board;[96]

IX

INVESTMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[92] as well as the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board thereon in its report;[96]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and to the members of the Investments Committee for the investment performance of the Fund, which contributed significantly to the actuarial surplus of the Fund as at 31 December 1997;

3. *Welcomes* the development of a strategic benchmark for the investment performance of the Fund, as described in paragraph 33 of the report of the Secretary-General[92] and paragraphs 62 and 63 of the report of the Board;[96]

4. *Supports* the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue consideration of suitable benchmarks and other indicators for assessing the investment performance of the Fund;

5. *Takes note* of the observations of the Board of Auditors on the outstanding tax refunds due to the Fund from some Member States in respect of direct taxes imposed on the investment income of the Fund, as set out in paragraphs 13 to 15 of its report, which is reproduced in annex III to the report of the Board;[96]

6. *Urges* those Member States that have outstanding balances on foreign tax accounts receivable to provide the reimbursement due as quickly as possible;

7. *Reiterates its request* to those Member States that do not grant tax exemptions to make all possible efforts to do so as soon as possible.

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

ANNEX

Amendments to the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Article 7

Secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

1. Replace paragraph (*a*) with the following:

"(*a*) The Chief Executive Officer of the Fund and a Deputy shall be appointed by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Board."

2. Replace paragraph (*c*) with the following:

"(*c*) The Chief Executive Officer shall perform that function under the authority of the Board and shall certify for payment all benefits properly payable under these Regulations. The Chief Executive Officer shall also serve as Secretary of the Board. In the absence of the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall perform these functions."

Article 21

Participation

Replace paragraph (*b*) with the following:

"(*b*) Participation shall cease when the organization by which the participant is employed ceases to be a member organization, or when he or she dies or separates from such member organization, except that participation shall not be deemed to have ceased where a participant resumes contributory service with a member organization within 36 months after separation without a benefit having been paid."

Article 32

Deferment of payment or choice of benefit

Replace paragraph (*a*) with the following:

"(*a*) The payment to a participant of a withdrawal settlement, or the exercise by a participant of a choice among available benefits, or between a form of benefit involving payment in a lump sum and another form, may be deferred at the participant's request for a period of 36 months."

Article 34

Widow's benefit

1. Replace paragraph (*f*) with the following:

"(*f*) The benefit shall be payable at periodic intervals for life, provided that a benefit payable at an annual rate of less than 200 dollars may be commuted by the widow into a lump sum which is the actuarial equivalent of the benefit at the standard annual rate under (*c*) above, or the annual rate under (*e*) above, as the case may be."

2. Replace paragraph (*g*) with the following:

"(*g*) The benefit shall, where there is more than one surviving spouse, be divided equally between the spouses, and upon the death of each such spouse shall be equally divided among the remainder."

3. Delete paragraph (*h*) in its entirety.

Article 35

1. Add the following new article:

"Article 35 bis

"Divorced surviving spouse's benefit

"(*a*) Any divorced spouse of a participant or former participant, separated on or after 1 April 1999, who was entitled to a retirement, early retirement, deferred retirement or disability benefit, or of a participant who died in service on or after that date, may, subject to the provisions of article 34 (*b*) (applicable also to widowers), request a former spouse's benefit, if the conditions specified in paragraph (*b*) below are fulfilled;

"(*b*) Subject to paragraph (*d*) below, the divorced spouse is entitled to the benefit set out in paragraph (*c*) below, payable prospectively following receipt of the request for a divorced surviving spouse's benefit if, in the opinion of the Secretary, all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

"(i) The participant had been married to the former spouse for a continuous period of at least ten years, during which contributions were paid to the Fund on account of the participant or the participant was awarded a disability benefit under article 33 of the Regulations;

"(ii) The former spouse had not remarried;

"(iii) The participant's death occurred within 15 years of the date when the divorce became final, unless the former spouse proves that at the time of death the participant was under a legal obligation to pay maintenance to the former spouse;

"(iv) The former spouse has reached the age of 40. Otherwise the benefit entitlement shall commence on the day immediately following the day that age is reached; and "(v) Evidence is provided by the former spouse that the participant's pension entitlement from the Fund was not taken into account in a divorce settlement;

"(*c*) A former spouse who, in the opinion of the Secretary, has met the conditions set out in paragraph (*b*) above shall be entitled to the widow's or widower's benefit under article 34 or 35 as the case may be; however, if the participant is survived by both one or more such former spouses and/or by a spouse entitled to a benefit under article 34 or 35, the benefit payable under article 34 or 35 shall be divided between the spouse and former spouse(s) in proportion to the duration of their marriages to the participant;

"(*d*) Article 34 (*f*) and (g) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*."

2. Add the following new article:

"*Article 35 ter*

"*Spouses married after separation*

"(*a*) A former participant receiving a periodic benefit may elect to provide a periodic benefit for life in a specified amount (subject to paragraph (*b*) below) to a spouse who was not married to him or her at the date of separation. Such election shall be made within 180 days of the date of marriage or of the entry into force of this provision, if later, and shall become effective one year after the date of marriage, or one year after the date of entry into force of this provision, as appropriate. The benefit shall be payable as of the first day of the month following the death of the former participant. When the election becomes effective, the benefit payable to the former participant shall be reduced in accordance with actuarial factors to be determined by the Fund's Consulting Actuary. An election under this subsection may not be revoked after it becomes effective, except by the death of the spouse, in which case it will be considered terminated as from that date;

"(*b*) Any election made under paragraph (*a*) shall be subject to the following:

"(i) The amount of the periodic benefit payable to the former participant, after reduction owing to elections made pursuant to paragraph (*a*) above, shall be at least one half of the benefit that would have been payable without any such elections; and

"(ii) The amount of the benefit payable to the spouse shall not be larger than the amount of the benefit payable to the retired participant after reduction for the elections."

Article 45

Non-assignability of rights

Replace the text of article 45 with the following:

"A participant or beneficiary may not assign his rights under these Regulations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund may, upon receipt of a request from a participant or former participant made pursuant to a legal obligation arising from a marital or parental relationship and evidenced by an order of a court or by a settlement agreement incorporated into a divorce or other court order, direct that a portion of a benefit payable by the Fund to such participant for life be paid to one or more former spouses and/or a current spouse from whom the participant or former participant is living apart. Such direction or payment related thereto shall not convey to any person a benefit entitlement from the Fund or (except as provided herein) provide any rights under the Regulations of the Fund to such person or increase the total benefits otherwise payable by the Fund. To be acted upon, a request must be consistent with the Regulations of the Fund. The direction in any such request shall normally be irrevocable; however, a participant or former participant may request, upon satisfactory evidence based on a court order or a provision of a settlement agreement incorporated into a court decree, a new direction that would alter or discontinue the payment or payments. Furthermore, any direction shall cease to have effect following the death of the participant or former participant. If a designee under a direction predeceases the participant or former participant, the payments shall not commence, or if they have commenced, shall cease upon the designee's death. In the event that the payment or payments under a direction have been diminished, discontinued or have failed to commence or have ceased, the amount of benefit payable to the participant or former participant shall be duly adjusted."

53/211. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola[100] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[101]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III), 1118 (1997) of 30 June 1997, by which the Council decided to establish, as from 1 July 1997, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1213 (1998) of 3 December 1998,

Recalling its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/8 C of 26 June 1998,

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[100] A/52/799/Add.1.

[101] A/53/722.

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S–IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola as at 30 November 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 105.4 million United States dollars, representing 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission to the period ending 30 June 1997 and from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 31 October 1998, notes that some 18 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[101]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with maximum efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Reiterates* the request set out in paragraph 9 of its resolution 52/8 C;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all managers exercising financial responsibility are issued the revised and updated version of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that every official of the United Nations is responsible to the Secretary-General for the regularity of the actions taken by him or her in the course of his or her official duties and that any official who takes any action contrary to the financial rules, or to the administrative instructions issued in connection therewith, may be held personally responsible and financially liable for the consequences of such action;

11. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General in its resolution 49/218 of 23 December 1994 to include full implementation of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations as a specific performance indicator in the performance appraisal of all managers;

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola the additional amount of 87.2 million dollars gross (84,575,000 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, taking into account the amount of 45,899,080 dollars gross (44,301,680 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 under the provisions of its resolution 52/8 C, and inclusive of the amount of 10.9 million dollars gross (10,500,650 dollars net) authorized by the Advisory Committee for the month of November 1998 under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994;

13. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 45,899,080 dollars gross (44,301,680 dollars net) already apportioned under the provisions of its resolution 52/8 C, to apportion the additional amount of 42,821,400 dollars gross (41,532,400 dollars net) for the period from 1 November 1998 to 26 February 1999 among Member States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

14. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,289,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 November 1998 to 26 February 1999;

15. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 44,378,600 dollars gross (43,042,600 dollars net) for the period from 27 February to 30 June 1999 at a monthly rate of 10.9 million dollars gross (10,571,875 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999 as set out in its resolution 52/215 A, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 26 February 1999;

16. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,336,0001 dollars approved for the period from 27 February to 30 June 1999;

17. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

18. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola".

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53/212. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991[102] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[103]

Recalling its resolution 47/235 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/217 of 22 December 1997,

Recalling also that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/217, it agreed to defer the consideration of the pension entitlement for members of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service for the judges of the International Tribunals[104] until the review of the report of the Secretary-General on the emoluments and pension scheme of members of the International Court of Justice,[105] submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,

1. *Takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[103] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the late submission of the budget proposals for the year 1999, and reiterates the request it made in resolution 50/212 C of 7 June 1996 that future budget proposals be submitted before 1 November of each year;

3. *Also expresses its concern* about the format of the presentation of the 1999 budget proposals which was not succinct, was repetitious in some instances, lacked justification in certain cases and was inconsistent at times;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the presentation of future budget proposals, which should also take into account the provisions of the present resolution;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to evaluating the effective operation and functioning of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, with the objective of ensuring the efficient use of the resources of the Tribunals, to conduct a review in full cooperation with the Presidents of the Tribunals, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in its reports,[106] and in the statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee before the Fifth Committee at its 37th meeting,[107] without prejudice to the provisions of the statutes of the Tribunals and their independent character, and to report thereon to the relevant organs of the United Nations;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report called for in paragraph 5 above, along with the budget proposals for the year 2000, no later than 1 November 1999;

7. *Expresses concern* about the high vacancy rate in the Professional and General Service categories of staff of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures, including those relating to the recruitment process, to address this situation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the budget proposals for the year 2000;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information on the monthly post incumbency in future budget proposals;

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[102] A/C.5/53/12 and A/C.5/53/13.

[103] A/53/651.

[104] A/52/520.

[105] A/C.5/53/11.

[106] A/53/651, paras. 65–67, and A/53/659, paras. 84–86.

[107] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Fifth Committee*, 37th meeting (A/C.5/53/SR.37), para. 43, and corrigendum.

9. *Reaffirms* that the use of gratis personnel shall be phased out by 31 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 2 of its resolution 52/217 of 22 December 1997;

10. *Also reaffirms* that gratis personnel should be treated in accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 51/243 of 15 September 1997 and 52/234 of 26 June 1998;

11. *Emphasizes* that the delegation of authority for human resources management should be strictly in accordance with the existing Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

12. *Also emphasizes* that the recruitment of staff in the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia should be in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

13. *Notes with concern* that a number of workload indicators are inaccurate, inflated and unjustifiable;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the workload indicators are monitored and checked for accuracy and consistency;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include a section in future budget proposals on the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to maintain an accounting inventory record of the furniture and equipment acquired for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia since its establishment (purchase and depreciation), in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to provide a succinct summary of that information in the next report on the financing of the Tribunal;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in future budget proposals information on those items in the current inventory for which proposals for replacement and/or additions are made, in the format used in peacekeeping budget proposals;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary actions to ensure that the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is administered with maximum efficiency and economy;

19. *Stresses* the need to provide the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with adequate resources to fulfil its mandated activities and to respond effectively to new challenges, and emphasizes the need for the efficient and effective use of its resources;

20. *Approves* the budgetary recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in paragraph 27 of its report;[105]

21. *Notes* that, by its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, the General Assembly has approved revised emoluments and other conditions of service, including the pension entitlement, for members of the International Tribunals, resulting in additional requirements of 219,700 United States dollars net in 1999, as recommended by the Advisory Committee,[108] for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia;

22. *Decides* that the five Professional and two General Service posts in The Hague, currently funded against the budget of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, should be transferred from the staffing table and the related financial provisions of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the staffing table and the budget of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, effective 1 January 1999, resulting in additional requirements of 666,900 dollars gross (551,800 dollars net) in 1999 for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia;

23. *Also decides* to revise the level of appropriation for the year 1998 to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to a total amount of 68,314,500 dollars gross (61,941,400 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1998;

24. *Further decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia a total amount of 103,437,600 dollars gross (94,103,800 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, which includes provisions for revised emoluments and other conditions of service, including the pension entitlement, for members of the International Tribunals;

25. *Decides* that the financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999 under the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia shall take into account the amount of 3,537,800 dollars, being the unencumbered balance for 1997, the reduction of 515,300 dollars gross (390,200 dollars net) from the initial appropriation for 1998 and the estimated income of 5,200 dollars for 1999, which shall be set off against the aggregate amount of the appropriation, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

26. *Also decides* to apportion the amount of 49,689,650 dollars gross (45,087,900 dollars net) among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year 1999;

27. *Further decides* to apportion the amount of 49,689,650 dollars gross (45,087,900 dollars net) among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations for the year 1999;

28. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 26 and 27 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 9,203,500 dollars approved for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999;

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[108] See A/53/7/Add.6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

29. *Welcomes* contributions already made to the Voluntary Fund to support the activities of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and invites Member States and other interested parties to make voluntary contributions to the Tribunal both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General.

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ANNEX

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

	Gross	*Net*
	(United States dollars)	
Appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	102 551 000	93 332 300
Financial implications of General Assembly resolution 53/214	219 700	219 700
Provisions for those posts to be transferred from the budget of the International Tribunal for Rwanda	666 900	551 800
Total appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	103 437 600	94 103 800
Less:		
Reduction in the appropriation for 1998	(515 300)	(390 200)
Estimated income for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	(5 200)	—
Unencumbered balance as at 31 December 1997	(3 537 800)	(3 537 800)
Balance to be assessed for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	99 379 300	90 175 800
Of which:		
Contributions to be assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year 1999	49 689 650	45 087 900
Contributions to be assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations for the year 1999	49 689 650	45 087 900

53/213. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,[109] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[110]

Recalling its resolution 49/251 of 20 July 1995 on the financing of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/218 of 22 December 1997,

Recalling also that by paragraph 6 of its resolution 52/218, it had agreed to defer the consideration of the pension entitlement for members of the International Tribunal for Rwanda proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on the conditions of service for the judges of the International Tribunals[111] until the review of the report of the Secretary-General on the emoluments and pension scheme of members of the International Court of Justice,[112] submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

1. *Takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[110] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the late submission of the budget proposals for the year 1999, and reiterates its request contained in its resolution 50/213 C of 7 June 1996

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[109] A/C.5/53/14 and A/C.5/53/15.

[110] A/53/659.

[111] A/52/520.

[112] A/C.5/53/11.

that future budget proposals be submitted before 1 November of each year;

3. *Notes* that, according to the information provided by the Secretariat, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 have one Prosecutor whose duty station is The Hague, and that the International Tribunal for Rwanda does not have a resident Prosecutor, but a Deputy Prosecutor;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to evaluating the effective operation and functioning of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda with the objective of ensuring the efficient use of the resources of the Tribunals, to conduct a review in full cooperation with their Presidents, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in its reports,[113] and in the statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee before the Fifth Committee at its 37th meeting,[114] without prejudice to the provisions of the statutes of the Tribunals and their independent character, and to report thereon to the relevant organs of the United Nations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report called for in paragraph 4 above, along with the budget proposals for the year 2000, no later than 1 November 1999;

6. *Expresses concern* about the high vacancy rate in the Professional and General Service categories of staff at the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures, including those related to the recruitment process, to address the situation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the budget proposals for the year 2000;

7. *Notes with concern* that gratis personnel were accepted in 1998 in disregard of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 in order to compensate for the vacancy rates and delays in processing the recruitment of staff, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General;[115]

8. *Reaffirms* that the use of gratis personnel shall be phased out by 31 December 1998 in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 52/218 of 22 December 1997;

9. *Also reaffirms* that gratis personnel should be treated in accordance with its resolution 51/243 and its resolution 52/234 of 26 June 1998;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information on the monthly post incumbency in future budget proposals;

11. *Emphasizes* that the delegation of authority for human resources management should be strictly in accordance with the existing Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

12. *Also emphasizes* that the recruitment of staff in the International Tribunal for Rwanda should be in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

13. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat that the Registry is working closely with the Office of Human Resources Management in reviewing the current remuneration package applicable to staff of the International Tribunal for Rwanda with a view to improving the conditions of service at Arusha and Kigali within the context of the United Nations common system, and requests the International Civil Service Commission to submit its proposals in this regard in the context of its annual report for 1999, no later than 1 November 1999;

14. *Also takes note* of the new arrangement in paragraph 28 of the report of the Secretary-General,[115] and in paragraphs 1 and 78 to 82 in annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General;

15. *Emphasizes* that the new arrangement should not deprive the judges of their supervisory role vis-à-vis the legal support staff;

16. *Notes with concern* that a number of workload indicators are inaccurate, inflated and unjustifiable;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the workload indicators are monitored and checked for accuracy and consistency;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that expenditure data from the field are entered into the main expenditure record on a timely basis;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made to address the problems and to improve the overall functioning of the International Tribunal for Rwanda;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include a section in future budget proposals on the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to maintain an accounting inventory record of the furniture and equipment acquired for the International Tribunal for Rwanda since its establishment (purchase and depreciation) in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to provide a succinct summary of that information in his next report on the financing of the Tribunal;

22. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in future budget proposals information on those items in the current inventory for which proposals for replacement and/or additions are made, in the format used in peacekeeping budget proposals;

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[113] A/53/651, paras.65–67, and A/53/659, paras. 84–86.

[114] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Fifth Committee*, 37th meeting (A/C.5/53/SR.37), para. 43, and corrigendum.

[115] A/C.5/53/15.

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary actions to ensure that the International Tribunal for Rwanda is administered with maximum efficiency and economy;

24. *Approves* the budgetary recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in paragraph 24 of its report;[116]

25. *Notes* that by its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, the General Assembly has approved revised emoluments and other conditions of service, including the pension entitlement, for members of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, as recommended by the Advisory Committee,[116] resulting in additional requirements of 147,300 United States dollars net for the International Tribunal for Rwanda in 1999;

26. *Decides* that the five Professional and two General Service posts in The Hague currently funded against the budget of the International Tribunal for Rwanda should be transferred from the staffing table and the related financial provisions of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the staffing table and the budget of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, effective 1 January 1999, resulting in a reduction of 666,900 dollars gross (551,800 dollars net) in the overall requirements for the International Tribunal for Rwanda in 1999;

27. *Also decides* to revise the level of appropriation to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 to 52,297,900 dollars gross (48,043,400 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1998;

28. *Further decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for Rwanda a total amount of 75,260,600 dollars gross (68,531,900 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, which also includes provisions for the revised emoluments and other conditions of service, including the pension entitlement, for members of the International Tribunal for Rwanda;

29. *Decides* that the financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999 under the Special Account for the International Tribunal for Rwanda shall take into account the reduction of 4,340,700 dollars gross (2,835,700 dollars net) in the initial appropriation for 1998 and the unencumbered balance of 6,716,000 dollars gross (4,365,400 dollars net) as of 31 December 1997, both of which shall be set off against the aggregate amount of the appropriation, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

30. *Also decides* to apportion the amount of 32,101,950 dollars gross (30,665,400 dollars net) among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year 1999;

31. *Further decides* to apportion the amount of 32,101,950 dollars gross (30,665,400 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations for the year 1999;

32. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 30 and 31 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 2,873,100 dollars approved for the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999;

33. *Welcomes* contributions already made to the Voluntary Fund to support the activities of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and invites Member States and other interested parties to make voluntary contributions to the Tribunal both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General.

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[116] A/53/7/Add.6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

ANNEX

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

	Gross	*Net*
	(United States dollars)	
Appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	75 780 200	68 936 400
Financial implications of General Assembly resolution 53/214	147 300	147 300
Less:		
Provisions for those posts to be transferred to the budget of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	(666 900)	(551 800)
Total appropriation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	75 260 600	68 531 900
Less:		
Reduction in the appropriation for 1998	(4 340 700)	(2 835 700)
Unencumbered balance as of 31 December 1997	(6 716 000)	(4 365 400)
Balance to be assessed for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999	64 203 900	61 330 800
Of which:		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year 1999	32 101 950	30 665 400
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations for the year 1999	32 101 950	30 665 400

53/214. Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

The General Assembly

I

REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH RESULTING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 1999

Approves the recommendation for a subvention of 213,000 United States dollars from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for 1999, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999;

II

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT THE PALAIS WILSON

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a cost-benefit analysis on the use of existing conference facilities at the Palais Wilson in Geneva;[117]

III

NET BUDGETING, INCLUDING ITS IMPACT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ENTITIES CONCERNED

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on net budgeting, including its impact on the functioning of the entities concerned,[118] and endorses the observations made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions before the Fifth Committee;[119]

IV

FIRST PERFORMANCE REPORT

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[120] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[121]

1. *Reaffirms* the budgetary process as approved in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and as reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997;

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[117] A/53/302.

[118] A/53/410.

[119] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Fifth Committee*, 39th meeting (A/C.5/53/SR.39), and corrigendum.

[120] A/53/693.

[121] A/53/7/Add.8. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7*.

3. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[120] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[121]

4. *Reaffirms* the requirement of all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations promptly and in full and without imposing conditions;

5. *Recognizes* the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

6. *Approves* a net decrease of 48,200,900 dollars in the appropriations approved for the biennium 1998–1999 and a net decrease of 4,552,500 dollars in the estimates of income for the biennium 1998–1999, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Expresses concern* about the fact that a number of sections of the programme budget continue to reflect high levels of vacancy, which could have an impact on the full implementation of the programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly;

8. *Reiterates* that the vacancy rate is a tool for budgetary calculations and should not be used to achieve budgetary savings;

9. *Also reiterates* that a high vacancy rate hampers the delivery of mandated programmes and activities, and stresses that deliberate management decisions to keep a certain number of posts vacant makes the budget process less transparent and the management of staff resources more difficult;

10. *Reaffirms* that only the General Assembly has the authority to establish and abolish posts in the regular budget;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General immediately to intensify recruitment efforts in order to reduce the number of vacancies, particularly in those areas where there are high vacancy rates;

12. *Decides* that the vacancy rate for posts in the Professional and higher categories should not be more than 5 per cent at the end of the biennium 1998–1999, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps to achieve this objective;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the Office of the President of the General Assembly by taking all the necessary steps to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 1B.10 of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals",[122] as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220, so as to provide transparency and accountability and thereby strengthen the ability of the President of the General Assembly effectively and efficiently to discharge the responsibilities of the Office as deemed appropriate;

14. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly, consistent with the approved programme budget, should have full authority to use the funds provided in the budget for the Office, including hospitality and travel and any other requirements for the accomplishment of the official responsibilities;

15. *Notes* that paragraphs 74 to 80 of its resolution 52/220 defined the procedures to be followed in the proposed programme budget in dealing with activities related to country-specific special rapporteurs whose mandates had expired in 1997 and, as a consequence, there were no individual mandates for inclusion in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999;

16. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 79 of its resolution 52/220, no funds directly related to these non-mandated activities could be committed to them pending the consideration of the report on the relationship between the treatment of perennial activities and the use of the contingency fund, as requested in paragraph 78 of its resolution 52/220;

17. *Regrets* that the provisions of the decision contained in paragraph 79 of resolution 52/220 were not implemented, since the required report was not considered before 1998 activities related to country-specific special rapporteurs were implemented;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the presentation of the budget performance reports by separately reflecting the impact of average vacancy rates on changes related to salaries and common staff costs for each budget section;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide an explanation when average vacancy rates are higher than the level approved by the General Assembly;

20. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that resources are utilized strictly for the purposes approved by the General Assembly;

21. *Regrets* the tendency towards excessive use of consultants, in particular in areas where in-house expertise is available, and requests the Secretary-General to resort in future to the use of consultants only when in-house expertise is not available and in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and relevant resolutions;

22. *Reaffirms* that changes in mandated programmes and activities are the prerogative of the General Assembly;

V

CONSOLIDATION OF TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[123] and decides to revert to this question as appropriate in the context of the reform process;

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[122] A/52/303.

[123] A/53/452.

VI

CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE FACILITIES AT ADDIS ABABA AND BANGKOK

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the construction of conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok,[124] and endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 5 of its report;[125]

VII

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/217 of 21 December 1988 and 52/227 of 31 March 1998,

Having considered the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General,[126] as well as the report of the independent experts on the Integrated Management Information System project[127] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[128]

1. *Expresses serious concern* that the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General has not been submitted in full compliance with paragraph 13 of its resolution 52/227;

2. *Notes with concern* that the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services requested in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/227, which should have been taken into account in preparing the tenth progress report, has not been submitted;

3. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to review the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in its updated special audit of the Integrated Management Information System,[129] taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/227;

4. *Also requests* the Board of Auditors to continue monitoring the activities related to the Integrated Management Information System project as part of its ongoing regular audits of the financial statements;

5. *Reiterates* the request contained in paragraph 16 of its resolution 52/227 that the Secretary-General ensure that adequate and qualified staff are assigned to the implementation and operation of the Integrated Management Information System at all duty stations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all the necessary actions to ensure that the activities are performed with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to approve an additional appropriation of 3.3 million dollars;

8. *Decides also* to defer further consideration of the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General,[126] the report of the independent experts on the Integrated Management Information System project[127] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[128] until the resumed fifty-third session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, through the Advisory Committee, an addendum to his report, taking into consideration the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

VIII

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND COMPENSATION FOR OFFICIALS OTHER THAN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS: MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, JUDGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 AND JUDGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF RWANDA AND RWANDAN CITIZENS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SUCH VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 1994

Recalling its resolutions 37/240 of 21 December 1982, and the annex thereto containing the Travel and Subsistence Regulations of the International Court of Justice, 45/250 A to C of 21 December 1990 and 48/252 A to C of 26 May 1994 and section IV of its resolution 50/216 of 23 December 1995 on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice, as well as paragraphs 1 and 5 of its resolution 52/217 of 22 December 1997 on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, paragraphs 1 and 6 of its resolution 52/218 of 22 December 1997 on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, and its resolution 52/220 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999,

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[124] A/52/579 and A/53/347.

[125] A/53/7/Add.5. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

[126] A/53/573.

[127] A/53/662.

[128] A/53/7/Add.7. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

[129] A/52/755, annex.

Having considered the relevant reports of the Secretary-General[130] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[131]

1. *Approves* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of members of the International Court of Justice;

2. *Concurs* with the observation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 21 of its report[132] regarding a revision to article 7, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for Members of the International Court of Justice;

3. *Decides*, in this regard, to amend article 7, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for Members of the International Court of Justice to read as follows:[133]

> "Pensions in payment shall be automatically revised by the same percentage and at the same date as salary adjustments.";

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

5. *Also approves* the travel and subsistence regulations for the judges of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda contained in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General;[134]

6. *Further approves* the pension scheme regulations for the judges of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the pension scheme regulations for the judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda contained in annexes IV and V, respectively, to the report of the Secretary-General, with consequential modifications resulting from the decisions taken by the General Assembly in the present resolution;

7. *Decides* that the emoluments, pensions, and other conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice, the judges of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda shall be reviewed at its fifty-sixth session;

IX

UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL OFFICE IN BOUGAINVILLE

Takes note of the estimate of 1,395,300 dollars under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, and 148,300 dollars under section 32, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided in annex I, paragraph 11, to General Assembly resolution 41/213;

X

CONTINGENCY FUND

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates",[135] and notes that a balance of 15,307,800 dollars would remain in the contingency fund;

XI

RECOSTING OF OUTSTANDING STATEMENTS OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS AND REVISED ESTIMATES

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates,[136] and decides that the recosting and the related adjustments should be reflected in the revised appropriation for the biennium 1998–1999.

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[130] A/C.5/53/11 and A/52/520.

[131] A/52/696 and A/52/697; and A/51/7/Add.8 and A/53/7/Add.6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7A*; and ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[132] A/53/7/Add.6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[133] For the text of the Regulations amended pursuant to resolutions 45/250 B and 48/252 B, see A/52/520, annex II.

[134] A/52/520.

[135] A/C.5/53/48.

[136] A/C.5/53/49.

53/215. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

A

REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998–1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the biennium 1998–1999 the amount of 2,532,331,200 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolution 52/221 A of 22 December 1997 shall be adjusted by 5,627,700 dollars as follows:

Section	*Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A*	*Increase/(decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)	
PART I. *Overall policy-making, direction and coordination*			
1A. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	41 454 500	(113 300)	41 341 200
1B. General Assembly affairs and conference services	436 829 200	(9 175 400)	427 653 800
TOTAL, PART I	**478 283 700**	**(9 288 700)**	**468 995 000**
PART II. *Political affairs*			
2A. Political affairs	42 061 500	(827 600)	41 233 900
2B. Disarmament	13 310 600	(334 700)	12 975 900
3. Peacekeeping operations and special missions	146 760 600	34 663 100	181 423 700
4. Peaceful uses of outer space	3 967 300	(32 500)	3 934 800
TOTAL, PART II	**206 100 000**	**33 468 300**	**239 568 300**
PART III. *International justice and law*			
5. International Court of Justice	20 479 300	180 300	20 659 600
6. Legal affairs	33 035 400	(586 200)	32 449 200
TOTAL, PART III	**53 514 700**	**(405 900)**	**53 108 800**
PART IV. *International cooperation for development*			
7A. Economic and social affairs	109 262 300	(2 303 900)	106 958 400
8. Africa: New Agenda for Development	5 385 200	(155 200)	5 230 000
11A. Trade and development	96 296 900	(3 000 500)	93 296 400
11B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	19 812 700	—	19 812 700
12. Environment	8 807 400	(50 800)	8 756 600
13. Human settlements	12 790 300	(201 600)	12 588 700
14. Crime control	5 413 600	(56 300)	5 357 300
15. International drug control	14 825 500	(97 100)	14 728 400
TOTAL, PART IV	**272 593 900**	**(5 865 400)**	**266 728 500**

Section	*Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A*	*Increase/(decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)	
PART V. *Regional cooperation for development*			
16. Economic and social development in Africa	87 926 400	(7 318 600)	80 607 800
17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	56 167 500	508 400	56 675 900
18. Economic development in Europe	44 875 400	(1 325 800)	43 549 600
19. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	87 906 900	(5 222 900)	82 684 000
20. Economic and social development in Western Asia	49 925 000	(172 700)	49 752 300
21. Regular programme of technical cooperation	43 567 700	(912 500)	42 655 200
TOTAL, PART V	**370 368 900**	**(14 444 100)**	**355 924 800**
PART VI. *Human rights and humanitarian affairs*			
22. Human rights	42 201 500	(1 368 900)	40 832 600
23. Protection of and assistance to refugees	46 005 900	(954 900)	45 051 000
24. Palestine refugees	21 221 800	583 000	21 804 800
25. Humanitarian assistance	17 933 700	(350 500)	17 583 200
TOTAL, PART VI	**127 362 900**	**(2 091 300)**	**125 271 600**
PART VII. *Public information*			
26. Communications and public information	138 040 400	(2 466 400)	135 574 000
TOTAL, PART VII	**138 040 400**	**(2 466 400)**	**135 574 000**
PART VIII. *Common support services*			
27. Administrative services	446 190 700	(3 092 900)	443 097 800
TOTAL, PART VIII	**446 190 700**	**(3 092 900)**	**443 097 800**
PART IX. *Internal oversight*			
28. Internal oversight	18 359 600	(418 100)	17 941 500
TOTAL, PART IX	**18 359 600**	**(418 100)**	**17 941 500**
Part X. *Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*			
29. Jointly financed administrative activities	5 627 400	196 800	5 824 200
30. Special expenses	52 837 000	(152 700)	52 684 300
TOTAL, PART X	**58 464 400**	**44 100**	**58 508 500**
PART XI. *Capital expenditures*			
31. Capital expenditures	34 550 300	(377 200)	34 173 100
TOTAL, PART XI	**34 550 300**	**(377 200)**	**34 173 100**
PART XII. *Staff assessment*			
32. Staff assessment	315 436 700	(690 100)	314 746 600

Section	Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A	Increase/(decrease)	Revised appropriation
		(United States dollars)	
TOTAL, PART XII	**315 436 700**	**(690 100)**	**314 746 600**
PART XIII. *Development Account*			
34. Development Account	13 065 000	—	13 065 000
TOTAL, PART XIII	**13 065 000**	—	**13 065 000**
GRAND TOTAL	**2 532 331 200**	**(5 627 700)**	**2 526 703 500**

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B

REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998–1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 1998–1999, the estimates of income of 363,840,300 United States dollars approved by it in its resolution 52/221 B of 22 December 1997 shall be decreased by 1,150,700 dollars, as follows:

Income sections	Amount approved in resolution 52/221 B	Increase/(decrease)	Revised appropriation
		(United States dollars)	
1. Income from staff assessment	325 486 700	(690 100)	324 796 600
TOTAL, INCOME SECTION 1	**325 486 700**	**(690 100)**	**324 796 600**
2. General income	33 743 600	(158 200)	33 585 400
3. Services to the public	4 610 000	(302 400)	4 307 600
TOTAL, INCOME SECTIONS 2 AND 3	**38 353 600**	**(460 600)**	**37 893 000**
GRAND TOTAL	**363 840 300**	**(1 150 700)**	**362 689 600**

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C

FINANCING OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the year 1999:

1. Budget appropriations totalling 1,260,537,900 United States dollars and consisting of 1,266,165,600 dollars, being half of the appropriations initially approved for the biennium 1998–1999 in resolution 52/221 A of 22 December 1997, less 5,627,700 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution A above, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations as follows:

(*a*) 42,955,681 dollars, consisting of:

(i) 19,176,800 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than income from staff assessment approved for the biennium 1998–1999 by the Assembly in its resolution 52/221 B of 22 December 1997;

(ii) Less 460,600 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(iii) 24,239,481 dollars, being the balance in the surplus account as at 31 December 1997;

(*b*) 1,217,582,219 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 on the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 178,491,720 dollars, consisting of:

(*a*) 162,743,350 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved by the Assembly in its resolution 52/221 B;

(*b*) Less 690,100 dollars, being the estimated decrease in income from staff assessment approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(c) Plus 16,438,470 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 1996–1997 compared with the revised estimates approved by the Assembly in its resolution 52/213 B of 22 December 1997.

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VII. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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53/96. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 37/116 of 16 December 1982, 39/77 of 13 December 1984, 41/72 of 3 December 1986, 43/161 of 9 December 1988, 45/38 of 28 November 1990, 47/30 of 25 November 1992, 49/48 of 9 December 1994 and 51/155 of 16 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] on the status of the Protocols[2] Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,

Convinced of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for these rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments, pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Stressing the possibility of making use of the International Fact-Finding Commission in relation to an armed conflict, pursuant to article 90 of Protocol I, and recalling that the International Fact-Finding Commission may, where necessary, facilitate, through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Conventions and the Protocol,

Stressing also the need for consolidating the existing body of international humanitarian law through its universal acceptance and the need for wide dissemination and full implementation of such law at the national level,

Mindful of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in offering protection to the victims of armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two additional Protocols,

Noting that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent endorsed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Protection of War Victims, including the recommendation that the depositary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 should organize periodic meetings of States parties to the Conventions to consider general problems regarding the application of international humanitarian law,

Acknowledging the fact that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted on 17 July 1998,[4] includes the most serious crimes of international concern under international humanitarian law, and that the Statute, while recalling that it is the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for such crimes, shows the determination of the international community to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes and thus to contribute to their prevention,

Taking note of the analytical report of the Secretary-General on minimum humanitarian standards submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session,[5]

Noting that international humanitarian law has been an important topic during the United Nations Decade of International Law, which will come to a close in 1999, fifty years after the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, and that the importance of this body of law will be highlighted in the context of the celebration in 1999 at The Hague and at St. Petersburg of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

1. *Appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[3] and notes the trend towards a similarly wide acceptance of the two additional Protocols of 1977;[2]

2. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

3. *Calls upon* all States that are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to make the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties to the additional Protocols to ensure their wide dissemination and full implementation;

5. *Affirms* the necessity of making the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective;

6. *Welcomes* the advisory service activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in supporting efforts undertaken by Member States to take legislative and administrative action to implement international humanitarian law and in promoting the exchange of information on those efforts between Governments;

7. *Welcomes also* the holding in January 1998 of the first periodic meeting on the application of international humanitarian law;

8. *Notes* the holding in October 1998 of the meeting of experts on general problems of the implementation of the fourth Geneva Convention;[6]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the additional Protocols, as well as measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, *inter alia*, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

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[1] A/53/287.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[3] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[4] A/CONF.183/9.

[5] E/CN.4/1998/87 and Add.1.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/97. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General,[7]

Conscious of the need to develop and strengthen friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Convinced that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Alarmed by the recent acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as against representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, which have endangered or taken innocent lives and seriously impeded the normal work of such representatives and officials,

Expressing sympathy for the victims of such illegal acts,

Welcoming the Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Security Council in relation to flagrant violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations,

Concerned at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

Recalling that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State,

Recalling also that diplomatic and consular premises must not be used in any manner incompatible with the diplomatic or consular functions,

Emphasizing the duty of States to take all appropriate measures as required by international law, including measures of a preventive nature, and to bring offenders to justice,

Welcoming measures already taken by States to that end in conformity with their international obligations,

Convinced that the role of the United Nations, which includes the reporting procedures established under General Assembly resolution 35/168 of 15 December 1980 and further elaborated in subsequent Assembly resolutions, is important in promoting efforts to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

3. *Also strongly condemns* the recent acts of violence against such missions, representatives and officials, referred to in relevant reports under this item;

4. *Urges* States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations and, in particular, to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above officially present in territories under their jurisdiction, including practical measures to prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of such missions, representatives and officials;

5. *Also urges* States to take all necessary measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to ensure, with the participation of the United Nations, where appropriate, that such acts are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice;

6. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely through, *inter alia*, contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State with regard to practical measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and with regard to the exchange of information on the circumstances of all serious violations thereof;

7. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures in accordance with international law, at the national and international levels, to prevent any abuse of diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, in particular serious abuses, including those involving acts of violence;

8. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely with the State in whose territory abuses of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may have occurred, including by exchanging information and providing assistance to its juridical authorities in order to bring offenders to justice;

9. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives;

10. *Also calls upon* States, in cases where a dispute arises in connection with a violation of their international obligations concerning the protection of the missions or the

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[7] A/INF/52/6 and Add.1 and A/53/276 and Corr.1.

security of the representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, to make use of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General, when he deems it appropriate, to offer his good offices to the States directly concerned;

11. *Requests* all States to report to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue a report on the item, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154, containing also an analytical summary of the reports received under paragraph 11 above, on an annual basis, as well as to proceed with his other tasks pursuant to the same resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/98. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the set of draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property adopted by the International Law Commission at its forty-third session,[8] as well as the recommendation of the Commission that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to examine the draft articles and to conclude a convention on the subject,[9]

Recalling that, in its resolution 49/61 of 9 December 1994, it accepted the recommendation of the International Law Commission,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 52/151 of 15 December 1997, it decided to consider the subject again at its fifty-third session with a view to the establishment of a working group at its fifty-fourth session,

Reaffirming that the codification and progressive development of international law contributes to the implementation of the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[10]

1. *Decides* to establish at its fifty-fourth session an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee, open also to participation by States members of the specialized agencies, to consider outstanding substantive issues related to the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property adopted by the International Law Commission,[8] taking into account the recent developments of State practice and legislation and any other factors related to this issue since the adoption of the draft articles, as well as the comments submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 49/61 and paragraph 2 of resolution 52/151, and to consider whether there are any issues identified by the working group upon which it would be useful to seek further comments and recommendations of the Commission;

2. *Invites* the International Law Commission to present any preliminary comments it may have regarding outstanding substantive issues related to the draft articles by 31 August 1999, in the light of the results of the informal consultations held pursuant to General Assembly decision 48/413 of 9 December 1993 and taking into account the recent developments of State practice and other factors related to this issue since the adoption of the draft articles, in order to facilitate the task of the working group;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/99. Action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once again the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law, as expressed by the General Assembly in resolutions under that item of its agenda,[11]

Mindful of the long and well-established tradition of progressive development and codification of international law, marked by the first and the second International Peace Conferences, held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively,

Recalling that a third international peace conference, scheduled to be held at The Hague in 1915, was not held because of the outbreak of the First World War the previous year,

Recalling also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century, referred to in General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, and the initiatives undertaken by the Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with regard to the commemoration of the first International Peace Conference,

Noting with satisfaction that the realization of the programme of action dedicated to the centennial of the first

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[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/46/10), para. 28.

[9] Ibid., para. 25.

[10] A/53/274 and Add.1.

[11] Notably resolutions 44/23, 51/157 and 52/153.

International Peace Conference, presented by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation,[12] is consistent with the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting, in this respect, that meetings of the Friends of 1999, held at The Hague in 1997 and in Moscow and New York in 1998, further contributed to the substantive content of the programme of action,

Noting also the preliminary reports on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Expressing its gratitude to the rapporteurs and all organizations, groups and individuals who contributed to the discussion of the centennial themes,

Bearing in mind the progress report[13] and the agenda[14] of the commemorative meetings to be held at The Hague and at St. Petersburg,

Noting that the outcome of action pertaining to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting also that the programme of action does not entail budgetary implications for the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the realization of the programme of action, presented by the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation,[12] which aims at contributing to the further development of the themes of the first and the second International Peace Conference and could be regarded as a third international peace conference;

2. *Encourages*:

(*a*) The Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to continue with the implementation of the programme of action;

(*b*) All States to participate in the activities set out in the programme of action, as well as to initiate such activities and to coordinate their efforts in this respect at the global level, as well as at the regional and national levels;

(*c*) All States to take appropriate measures to ensure universal participation in the activities pursuant to the programme of action, with special consideration for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries;

3. *Encourages* the competent organs, subsidiary organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission and the Secretariat, within their respective competencies, as well as other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals, as appropriate:

(*a*) To continue to contribute to the discussions on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference on the basis of the preliminary reports;

(*b*) To consider participating in the activities envisaged in the programme of action and contributing to work towards meaningful conclusions of the debates on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

4. *Requests* the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to prepare reports on the outcome of the centennial celebrations at The Hague and at St. Petersburg for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with a view to their consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure consistency between the activities of the Organization relating to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law and those relating to the programme of action and to coordinate with the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation his efforts with regard to the closing of the Decade;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider any activities to promote the outcome of the United Nations Decade of International Law, including the possibility of the issuance by the United Nations of a set of jubilee postage stamps and postcards in commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

7. *Decides* to consider in the plenary meeting at its fifty-fourth session dedicated to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law the outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the Decade;

8. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", a sub-item entitled "Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/100. United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990–1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of International Law in 1999,

Recalling that the main purposes of the Decade, according to resolution 44/23, should be, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law,

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[12] A/C.6/52/3, annex.

[13] See A/C.6/53/10, annex.

[14] See A/C.6/53/11, annex.

(*b*) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice,

(*c*) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification,

(*d*) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law,

Recalling also its resolution 51/157 of 16 December 1996, to which was annexed the programme for the activities for the final term (1997–1999) of the Decade, its resolution 51/158 of 16 December 1996, entitled "Electronic treaty database", and its resolution 52/153 of 15 December 1997,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General,[15] and expressing its appreciation therefor,

Welcoming the significant steps taken by the Secretary-General to rationalize and expedite the registration and publication of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the completion of the initial phase of the new electronic database for the United Nations Treaty Collection,

Recalling that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations of 21 March 1986[16] is one of the conventions adopted under the aegis of the United Nations which have codified the law of treaties, and recalling also the impact of the Convention on the practice of treaties concluded between States and international organizations or between international organizations,

Noting that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 41/420 of 3 December 1986, the Secretary-General signed, on behalf of the United Nations, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations,

Recalling that, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee established the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade,

Noting that, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee reconvened the Working Group to continue its work in accordance with Assembly resolutions 52/153 and 52/155 of 15 December 1997 and all previous resolutions on the subject,

Having considered the oral report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Sixth Committee,[17]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work done on the United Nations Decade of International Law at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, and requests the Working Group of the Sixth Committee to continue its work at the fifty-fourth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law, in implementation of the programme for the activities for the final term (1997–1999) of the Decade;

3. *Invites* all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General for inclusion in the report requested in paragraph 8 of resolution 51/157, which should also contain a list of major international conventions adopted under the auspices of the United Nations during the Decade in the field of international law;

4. *Welcomes* the work done by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the field of the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the adoption of its optional rules of procedure for fact-finding commissions of inquiry, which entered into effect on 15 December 1997;

5. *Encourages* States to disseminate at the national level, as appropriate, information contained in the note by the Secretary-General;[15]

6. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to deposit, on behalf of the United Nations, an act of formal confirmation of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations,[16] as provided for in article 83 of the Convention;

7. *Encourages* States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, international organizations that have signed the Convention to deposit an act of formal confirmation of the Convention, and other international organizations entitled to do so to accede to it at an early date;

8. *Encourages* States parties and international organizations or agencies, including depositaries, in order to facilitate further implementation of the obligation laid down in Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide, where available, a copy of the text of any treaty in disk or other electronic format and to consider providing, where available, translations in English or French or both, as may be needed, for the purpose of assisting with the timely publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series*;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for its efforts to facilitate access to information concerning United Nations activities in the field of international law, and to bring up to date the publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*, and encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard;

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[15] A/53/492.

[16] A/CONF.129/15.

[17] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Sixth Committee*, 32nd meeting (A/C.6/53/SR.32), and corrigendum.

10. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the progress achieved in establishing a new electronic database for the United Nations Treaty Collection, and encourages him to continue the development of this database with a view to expeditiously providing Member States with a greater range of easily accessible treaty-related information;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue developing a policy of providing Internet access to the United Nations *Treaty Series* and the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, bearing in mind the needs of States, in particular developing countries, in recovering the costs thereof, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this issue at its fifty-fourth session;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance, including translation services, to implement the plan to eliminate the historical backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* within the next biennium;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his note containing a list of the titles of the treaties appearing in the publication *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*;[18]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that hard copies of the publications mentioned in paragraph 11 above continue to be distributed to permanent missions free of charge in accordance with their needs;

15. *Appeals* to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field of international law, and to the private sector, to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

16. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to bring the programme, as well as the note referred to in paragraph 13 above, to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the field of international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

18. *Takes note with interest* of the events that will take place during the year 1999 to commemorate the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;[19]

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" and to convene a one-day plenary meeting on 17 November 1999 to mark the end of the Decade.

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/101. Principles and guidelines for international negotiations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations[20] and of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes,[21]

Taking into account the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Considering that international negotiations constitute a flexible and effective means for, among other things, the peaceful settlement of disputes among States and for the creation of new international norms of conduct,

Bearing in mind that in their negotiations States should be guided by the relevant principles and rules of international law,

Conscious of the existence of different means of peaceful settlement of disputes, as enshrined in the Charter and recognized by international law, and reaffirming, in this context, the right of free choice of those means,

Bearing in mind the important role that constructive and effective negotiations can play in attaining the purposes of the Charter by contributing to the management of international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the creation of new international norms of conduct of States,

Noting that the identification of principles and guidelines of relevance to international negotiations could contribute to enhancing the predictability of negotiating parties, reducing uncertainty and promoting an atmosphere of trust at negotiations,

Recognizing that the following could offer a general, non-exhaustive frame of reference for negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* the following principles of international law which are of relevance to international negotiations:

(*a*) Sovereign equality of all States, notwithstanding differences of an economic, social, political or other nature;

(*b*) States have the duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

(*c*) States have the duty to fulfil in good faith their obligations under international law;

(*d*) States have the duty to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

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[18] A/53/525.

[19] See A/C.6/53/11, annex.

[20] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[21] Resolution 37/10, annex.

(*e*) Any agreement is void if its conclusion has been procured by the threat or use of force in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter;

(*f*) States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in order to maintain international peace and security and to promote international economic stability and progress, the general welfare of nations and international cooperation free from discrimination based on such differences;

(*g*) States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered;

2. *Affirms* the importance of conducting negotiations in accordance with international law in a manner compatible with and conducive to the achievement of the stated objective of negotiations and in line with the following guidelines:

(*a*) Negotiations should be conducted in good faith;

(*b*) States should take due account of the importance of engaging, in an appropriate manner, in international negotiations the States whose vital interests are directly affected by the matters in question;

(*c*) The purpose and object of all negotiations must be fully compatible with the principles and norms of international law, including the provisions of the Charter;

(*d*) States should adhere to the mutually agreed framework for conducting negotiations;

(*e*) States should endeavour to maintain a constructive atmosphere during negotiations and to refrain from any conduct which might undermine the negotiations and their progress;

(*f*) States should facilitate the pursuit or conclusion of negotiations by remaining focused throughout on the main objectives of the negotiations;

(*g*) States should use their best endeavours to continue to work towards a mutually acceptable and just solution in the event of an impasse in negotiations.

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/102. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session,[22]

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development of international law and its codification as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[23]

Emphasizing also the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Stressing the usefulness of structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report,

Wishing to enhance further the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the International Law Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two organs,

Noting the holding of a split session of the International Law Commission in 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session,[22] and expresses its appreciation to the Commission for the work accomplished at that session, in particular the completion of the first reading of the draft articles on the prevention part of the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law";

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report, and invites them to submit comments and observations in writing by 1 January 2000 on the draft articles on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law (prevention of transboundary damage from hazardous activities);

3. *Recommends* that, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether in writing or expressed orally in debates in the General Assembly, the International Law Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme;

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[22] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (A/53/10 and Corr.1).

[23] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

4. *Welcomes* the valuable work done by the International Law Commission on the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law", and requests the Commission, while continuing its work on prevention, to examine other issues arising out of the topic, taking into account comments made by Governments, either in writing or in the Sixth Committee, and to submit its recommendations on the future work to be done on these issues to the Sixth Committee;

5. *Invites* Governments to submit the most relevant national legislation, decisions of domestic courts and State practice relevant to diplomatic protection in order to assist the International Law Commission in its future work on the topic "Diplomatic protection";

6. *Takes note* of the consideration by the International Law Commission of its long-term programme of work,[24] and encourages the Commission to proceed with the selection of new topics for its next quinquennium;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the steps taken by the International Law Commission in relation to its internal matters, as contained in paragraphs 543 and 544 of its report, and encourages it to continue enhancing its efficiency and productivity, taking into consideration the discussion held by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

8. *Endorses* the decision by the International Law Commission on the duration of its session in 1999, as presented in paragraph 562 of its report;

9. *Takes note* of paragraphs 562 and 563 of the report of the International Law Commission regarding the holding of split sessions as of 2000, requests the Commission to examine the advantages and disadvantages of such split sessions, and decides to return to this matter at its fifty-fourth session;

10. *Stresses* the desirability of enhancing dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee, and in this context requests the Commission to submit any recommendations to that effect;

11. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

12. *Also requests* the International Law Commission to continue the implementation of article 16, paragraph (*e*), and article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation, and invites the Commission to provide the Sixth Committee with updated information in this regard at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

13. *Notes* that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

14. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and those concerning the summary records and other documentation of the International Law Commission;

15. *Takes note* of the inclusion of information about the work of the International Law Commission in its Web site;[25]

16. *Once again expresses the wish* that seminars will continue to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants from developing countries will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, appeals to States that can do so to make the voluntary contributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the seminars with adequate services, including interpretation, as required;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Commission, which was fittingly commemorated by a seminar held at Geneva on 21 and 22 April 1998 and by other events;

19. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly commence on 25 October 1999.

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/103. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it created the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Reaffirming its conviction that the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting the developing countries, would significantly contribute to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity and common interest and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to the well-being of all peoples,

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[24] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (A/53/10 and Corr.1), chap. X, sect. C.

[25] The Internet address is http://www.un.org/law/ilc/index.htm.

Stressing the value of participation by States at all levels of economic development and from different legal systems in the process of harmonizing and unifying international trade law,

Having considered the report of the Commission on the work of its thirty-first session,[26]

Mindful of the valuable contribution to be rendered by the Commission within the framework of the United Nations Decade of International Law, in particular as regards the dissemination of international trade law,

Concerned that activities undertaken by other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law without coordination with the Commission might lead to undesirable duplication of efforts and would not be in keeping with the aim of promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law, as stated in its resolution 37/106 of 16 December 1982,

Stressing the importance of the further development of the Case Law on United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Texts in promoting the uniform application of the legal texts of the Commission and its value for government officials, practitioners and academics,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session;[26]

2. *Commends* the Commission for the progress made in its work on receivables financing, electronic commerce, privately financed infrastructure projects and the legislative implementation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York on 10 June 1958;[27]

3. *Also commends* the Commission for holding a special commemorative "New York Convention Day" in order to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and a Uniform Commercial Law Information Colloquium, designed to provide information on current topics and generate discussion among experts that might be useful in the consideration of those topics by the Commission;

4. *Appeals* to Governments that have not yet done so to reply to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretariat in relation to the legal regime governing the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards;

5. *Invites* States to nominate persons to work with the private foundation established to encourage assistance to the Commission from the private sector;

6. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field and, in this connection:

(*a*) Calls upon all bodies of the United Nations system and invites other international organizations to bear in mind the mandate of the Commission and the need to avoid duplication of effort and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law;

(*b*) Recommends that the Commission, through its secretariat, continue to maintain close cooperation with the other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law;

7. *Also reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with training and technical assistance in the field of international trade law, such as assistance in the preparation of national legislation based on legal texts of the Commission;

8. *Expresses the desirability* for increased efforts by the Commission, in sponsoring seminars and symposia, to provide such training and technical assistance, and in this connection:

(*a*) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for organizing seminars and briefing missions in Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Greece, Malta, Peru, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates;

(*b*) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions enabled the seminars and briefing missions to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant United Nations organs, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Trust Fund for Symposia and, where appropriate, to the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in financing and organizing seminars and symposia, in particular in developing countries, and in the award of fellowships to candidates from developing countries to enable them to participate in such seminars and symposia;

9. *Appeals* to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the training and technical assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission;

10. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant United Nations organs, organizations, institutions and individuals, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund for travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

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[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/53/17).

[27] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 330, No. 4739.

11. *Decides*, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue, in the competent Main Committee during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, its consideration of granting travel assistance to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the effective implementation of the programme of the Commission;

13. *Stresses* the importance of bringing into effect the conventions emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to those conventions.

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/104. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[28]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[29] the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,[30] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

Noting the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding that has guided the deliberations of the Committee on issues affecting the United Nations community and the host country,

Taking into account the increase in profound interest and concern of many Member States in the work of the Committee,

Noting that the Committee reviewed its membership and composition with the full participation of observers, in accordance with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 52/159 of 15 December 1997,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 50 of its report;[28]

2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that its membership be increased by four members, including one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean and Eastern European States, to be chosen by the President of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, in consultation with the regional groups;

3. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations is in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, and requests the host country to continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

5. *Notes* that during the reporting period the travel controls previously imposed by the host country on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities remained in effect, and requests the host country to consider removing such travel controls, and in this regard notes the positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

6. *Requests* the host country to continue to take steps to resolve the problem relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles in a fair, balanced and non-discriminatory way, with a view to responding to the growing needs of the diplomatic community, and to continue to consult with the Committee on this important issue;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Committee aimed at identifying affordable health-care programmes for the diplomatic community;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

9. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI);

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/105. Establishment of an international criminal court

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/33 of 25 November 1992, 48/31 of 9 December 1993, 49/53 of 9 December 1994, 50/46 of 11 December 1995 and 51/207 of 17 December 1996,

Recalling also its resolution 52/160 of 15 December 1997, in which it decided to hold the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court at Rome from 15 June to 17 July 1998,

Expressing satisfaction at the completion of the mandate of that resolution by the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 17 July 1998,[31] noting that the Statute was open for signature in Rome from 17 July until 17 October 1998 and that thereafter it will be open for signature in New York at United Nations Headquarters until 31 December 2000, and taking note of the Final Act of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court done at Rome on 17 July 1998,[32]

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[28] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/53/26).

[29] Resolution 22 A (I).

[30] See resolution 169 (II).

Noting that a significant number of States have signed the Rome Statute,

Emphasizing the need to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of the functions of the International Criminal Court in order to ensure its effective operation,

Noting in particular that the Conference decided to establish a Preparatory Commission for the Court, consisting of representatives of States that have signed the Final Act of the Conference and other States that were invited to participate in the Conference,[33]

Noting that the Conference requested the Secretary-General to convene the Preparatory Commission at Headquarters as early as possible, at a date to be decided by the General Assembly,[33]

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Preparatory Commission with regard to the preparation of proposals for practical arrangements for the establishment and coming into operation of the Court, including the finalization before 30 June 2000 of the draft texts of the rules of procedure and evidence and of the elements of crimes,[33]

Recognizing the need for making available adequate resources and secretariat services to the Preparatory Commission in order to enable it to discharge its functions efficiently and expeditiously,

1. *Acknowledges* the historic significance of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[31]

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude* to the Government of Italy for hosting the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in Rome;

3. *Calls upon* all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute, and encourages efforts aimed at promoting awareness of the results of the Conference and of the provisions of the Rome Statute;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Preparatory Commission, in accordance with resolution F adopted by the Conference,[33] from 16 to 26 February, 26 July to 13 August and 29 November to 17 December 1999, to carry out the mandate of that resolution and, in that connection, to discuss ways to enhance the effectiveness and acceptance of the Court;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Preparatory Commission secretariat services, not including the preparation of working documents, to enable it to perform its functions;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to invite, as observers to the Preparatory Commission, representatives of organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly, pursuant to its relevant resolutions,[34] to participate in the capacity of observers in its sessions and work, and also to invite as observers to the Preparatory Commission representatives of interested regional intergovernmental organizations and other interested international bodies, including the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda;

7. *Notes* that non-governmental organizations may participate in the work of the Preparatory Commission by attending its plenary and its other open meetings, in accordance with the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Commission, receiving copies of the official documents and making available their materials to delegates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take steps to expand the mandate of the trust fund established pursuant to Assembly resolution 51/207 for voluntary contributions towards meeting the cost of participation in the work of the Preparatory Commission of the least developed countries, and encourages States to contribute voluntarily to this trust fund;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take steps to expand the mandate of the trust fund established pursuant to Assembly resolution 52/160 for voluntary contributions towards meeting the cost of participation in the work of the Preparatory Commission of those developing countries not covered by the trust fund referred to in paragraph 8, above, and invites States to contribute voluntarily to this trust fund;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of the International Criminal Court".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/106. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

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[31] A/CONF.183/9.

[32] A/CONF.183/10.

[33] Ibid., annex I.

[34] Resolutions 253 (III), 477 (V), 2011 (XX), 3208 (XXIX), 3237 (XXIX), 3369 (XXX), 31/3, 33/18, 35/2, 35/3, 36/4, 42/10, 43/6, 44/6, 45/6, 46/8, 47/4, 48/2, 48/3, 48/4, 48/5, 48/237, 48/265, 49/1, 49/2, 50/2, 51/1, 51/6, 51/204 and 52/6.

Recalling also its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council,[35]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the ad hoc expert group meeting convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/162 of 15 December 1997,[36]

Recalling the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

Recalling also its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

Recalling further that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the comments and observations of the International Court of Justice and States on the consequences that the increase in the volume of cases before the Court has on its operation,[37]

Considering the desirability of finding practical ways and means of strengthening the Court,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*,[38]

Recalling its resolution 52/162 of 15 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 1998,[39]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;[39]

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the ad hoc expert group meeting convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/162;[36]

3. *Decides* that the Special Committee will hold its next session from 12 to 23 April 1999;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 1999, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995:

(*a*) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 1999, including the revised proposal on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,[40] the revised working paper on the strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness,[41] the revised working paper entitled "Basic conditions and criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation"[42] and the working paper on the draft declaration on the basic principles and criteria for the work of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of crises and conflicts;[43]

(*b*) To continue to consider on a priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, taking into consideration the reports of the Secretary-General,[44] the proposals submitted on this question, the debate on the question in the Sixth Committee at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly and the text on the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations contained in annex II to General Assembly resolution 51/242, and also the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996, 52/162 of 15 December 1997 and 53/107 of 8 December 1998;

(*c*) To continue its work on the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and, in this context, to continue its consideration of proposals relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including the proposal on the establishment of a dispute settlement service offering or responding with its services early in disputes and those proposals relating to the enhancement of the role of the International Court of Justice;

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[35] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/52/47).

[36] See A/53/312, sect. IV.

[37] A/53/326 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[38] A/53/386.

[39] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/53/33).

[40] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33), para. 56.

[41] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 33* and corrigendum (A/52/33 and Corr.1), para. 59.

[42] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/53/33), para. 45.

[43] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33), para. 128.

[44] A/48/573–S/26705 (see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*), A/49/356, A/50/60–S/1995/1 (see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*), A/50/423, A/50/361, A/51/317, A/52/308 and A/53/312.

(*d*) To continue to consider proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council in the light of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with resolution 50/55 of 11 December 1995,[45] the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform"[46] and the views expressed by States on this subject at the previous sessions of the General Assembly;

(*e*) To continue to consider, taking into account the comments presented by the International Court of Justice and States pursuant to resolution 52/161of 15 December 1997, practical ways and means of strengthening the Court, while respecting its authority and independence, on the understanding that whatever action may be taken as a result of the consideration will have no implications for any changes in the Charter of the United Nations or in the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

5. *Takes note* of subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*f*) of paragraph 32 of the report of the Secretary-General,[38] and requests him to continue to undertake efforts to identify resources to prepare supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and, in particular, to complete the work required to issue the two remaining volumes of Supplement No. 5 to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and to submit a progress report on the matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Invites* the Special Committee at its session in 1999 to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations, to discuss how to offer its assistance to the working groups of the General Assembly in this field and, in this regard, to consider ways and means of improving coordination between the Special Committee and other working groups dealing with the reform of the Organization, including the role of the Chairperson of the Special Committee for this purpose, and to continue considering ways and means of improving its working methods;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at the fifty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/107. Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter of the United Nations to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council,

Recalling the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

Recognizing the desirability of the consideration of further appropriate procedures for consultations to deal in a more effective manner with the problems referred to in Article 50 of the Charter,

Recalling:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[47] in particular paragraph 41 thereof,

(*b*) Its resolution 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, entitled "An Agenda for Peace", in particular section IV thereof, entitled "Special economic problems arising from the implementation of preventive or enforcement measures", and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", in particular annex II thereof, entitled "Question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations",

(c) The position paper of the Secretary-General entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace",[48]

(*d*) The statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 February 1995,[49]

(*e*) The report of the Secretary-General[50] prepared pursuant to the statement by the President of the Security Council[51] regarding the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter,

(*f*) The reports of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the

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[45] A/50/1011.

[46] A/51/950 and Add.1–7.

[47] A/47/277–S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[48] A/50/60–S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

[49] S/PRST/1995/9; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1995*.

[50] A/48/573–S/26705; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26705.

[51] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1992*, document S/25036.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[52] and General Assembly resolutions 48/210 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 A of 2 December 1994, 50/58 E of 12 December 1995, 51/30 A of 5 December 1996 and 52/169 H of 16 December 1997,

(*g*) The reports of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization on the work of its sessions held in the years 1994 to 1998,[53]

(*h*) The reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter,[54]

Taking note of the most recent report of the Secretary-General, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/162 of 15 December 1997,[55]

Recalling that the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions has been addressed recently in several forums, including the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs and the Security Council,

Recalling also the measures taken by the Security Council in accordance with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 16 December 1994[56] that, as part of the effort of the Council to improve the flow of information and the exchange of ideas between members of the Council and other States Members of the United Nations, there should be increased recourse to open meetings, in particular at an early stage in its consideration of a subject,

Stressing that, in the formulation of sanctions regimes, due account should be taken of the potential effects of sanctions on third States,

Stressing also, in this context, the powers of the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter and the primary responsibility of the Council under Article 24 of the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security in order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations,

Recalling that, under Article 31 of the Charter, any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected,

Recognizing that the imposition of sanctions under Chapter VII has been causing special economic problems in third States and that it is necessary to intensify efforts to address those problems,

Taking into consideration the views of third States which could be affected by the imposition of sanctions,

Recognizing that assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions would further contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach by the international community to sanctions imposed by the Security Council,

Recognizing also that the international community at large and, in particular, international institutions involved in providing economic and financial assistance should continue to take into account and address in a more effective manner the special economic problems of affected third States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, in view of their magnitude and of the adverse impact on the economy of those States,

Recalling the provisions of resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996 and 52/162 of 15 December 1997,

1. *Renews its invitation* to the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures, as appropriate, for consultations as early as possible under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations with third States, which are or may be confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, with regard to a solution of those problems, including appropriate ways and means for increasing the effectiveness of its methods and procedures applied in the consideration of requests by the affected States for assistance;

2. *Welcomes once again* the further measures taken by the Security Council since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/51and aimed at increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the sanctions committees, invites the Council to implement those measures, and strongly recommends that the Council continue its efforts to enhance further the functioning of the sanctions committees, to streamline their working procedures and to facilitate access to them by representatives of States that find themselves confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of sanctions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue implementation of resolutions 50/51, 51/208 and 52/162 and to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat develop the adequate capacity and appropriate modalities, technical procedures and guidelines to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, to continue developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States and to initiate action in order to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States;

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[52] A/49/356, A/50/423, A/51/356 and A/52/535.

[53] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/49/33); ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/50/33); ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33); ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 33* and corrigendum (A/52/33 and Corr.1); and ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/53/33).

[54] A/50/361, A/51/317 and A/52/308.

[55] A/53/312.

[56] S/PRST/1994/81; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1994*.

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of States, the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other international organizations regarding the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting on developing a methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures and on exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States;[57]

5. *Reaffirms* the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States, and decides to transmit the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999;

6. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international organizations, regional organizations and Member States to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter and, for this purpose, to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, at its session in 1999, to continue to consider on a priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, taking into consideration all the related reports of the Secretary-General, in particular the most recent report containing a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting convened pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/162, the proposals submitted on this question, the debate on the question in the Sixth Committee during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly and the text on the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations contained in annex II to General Assembly resolution 51/242, as well as the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 50/51, 51/208, 52/162 and the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to continue to consider within the Sixth Committee, or if necessary within a working group of the Committee, at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, further progress in the elaboration of effective measures aimed at the implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

53/108. Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, and resolutions 50/53 of 11 December 1995, 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and 52/165 of 15 December 1997,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[58]

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have been carried out worldwide,

Stressing the need to strengthen further international cooperation between States and between international organizations and agencies, regional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism, and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the Organization in this respect,

Recalling that in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to resolution 49/60, the General Assembly encouraged States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there was a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Bearing in mind the possibility of considering in the near future the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism,

Bearing in mind also that the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, reaffirmed its collective position on terrorism and as a recent initiative called for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,[59]

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[57] See A/53/312, sect. IV.

[58] See resolution 50/6.

[59] See A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I, paras. 149–162; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty- third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to prevent terrorist financing and to develop an appropriate legal instrument,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[60]

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

3. *Reiterates its call* upon all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider in particular the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (*a*) to (*f*) of its resolution 51/210;

4. *Also reiterates its call* upon all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

5. *Reiterates its call* upon States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

6. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation as well as actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant international conventions;

7. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to relevant conventions and protocols as referred to in paragraph 6 of resolution 51/210, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,[61] and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, domestic legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those conventions and protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts, and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to other States and relevant international and regional organizations to that end;

8. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism contained in the annex to resolution 49/60 and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism contained in the annex to resolution 51/210, and calls upon all States to implement them;

9. *Takes note* of the measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to enhance international cooperation and improve the response of Governments to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Decides* to address at its fifty-fourth session the question of convening a high-level conference in 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

11. *Decides also* that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 shall continue to elaborate a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism with a view to completing the instrument, shall elaborate a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist financing to supplement related existing international instruments, and subsequently shall address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism, including considering, on a priority basis, the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism;

12. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall meet from 15 to 26 March 1999, devoting appropriate time to the consideration of the outstanding issues relating to the elaboration of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and that it shall initiate the elaboration of a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist financing, and recommends that the work continue during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly from 27 September to 8 October 1999, within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and that the Ad Hoc Committee be convened in 2000 to continue its work as referred to in paragraph 11 above;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

14. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in the event of the completion of the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism;

15. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of its mandate;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998

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[60] A/53/314 and Corr.2 and Add.1.

[61] Resolution 52/164, annex.

ANNEX I

ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Ukraine (item 1).

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (item 2).

3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (item 3):

   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (item 4).

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (item 5).

6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (item 6).

7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (item 7).

8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (item 8).

9. General debate (item 9).

10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (item 10).

11. Report of the Security Council (item 11).

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to VII, VIII (sections A to C), IX and X] (item 12).

13. Report of the International Court of Justice (item 13).

14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 14).

15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (item 15):

    (*a*) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

    (*b*) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.

16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (item 16):

    (*a*) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

    (*b*) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):

    (*g*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

    (*h*) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

    (i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

    (*j*) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18).

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (item 19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (item 20):

    (*a*) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (*b*) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

    (*c*) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

    (*d*) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (item 21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (item 22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (item 23).

24. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review (item 24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (item 25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (item 26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (item 27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (item 28).

29. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (item 29).

30. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (item 30).

31. Culture of peace (item 31).

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (item 32).

33. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (item 33).

34. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (item 34).

35. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (item 35).

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (item 36).

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (item 37).

38. Oceans and the law of the sea (item 38):

    (*a*) Law of the sea;

    (*b*) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

39. Question of Palestine (item 39).

40. The situation in the Middle East (item 40).

41. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 41).

42. Assistance in mine clearance (item 42).

43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (item 43).

44. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (item 44).

45. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (item 45).

46. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (item 46):

    (*a*) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

    (*b*) Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

47. Election of judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 47).

48. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 48).

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).

50. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 50).

51. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion (item 51).

52. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (item 52).

53. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (item 53).

54. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (item 54).

55. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (item 55).

56. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (item 56).

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (item 57).

58. Strengthening of the United Nations system (item 58).

59. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (item 59).

60. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 60).

61. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (item 61).

62. Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (item 99).

63. Bethlehem 2000 (item 157).

64. World Solar Programme 1996–2005 (item 158).

65. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly (item 159).

66. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers (item 160).

67. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly (item 162).

68. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (item 164).

69. Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 166).

70. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 85).

71. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (item 93):

    (*d*) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.

72. Dialogue among civilizations (item 168).

73. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (item 167).

First Committee

(DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE)

1. Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields (item 63).

2. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States (item 64).

3. Reduction of military budgets (item 65):

    (*a*) Reduction of military budgets;

    (*b*) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

4. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (item 66).

5. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (item 67).

6. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (item 68).

7. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (item 69).

8. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (item 70).

9. General and complete disarmament (item 71):

    (*a*) Notification of nuclear tests;

    (*b*) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General;

    (*c*) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;

    (*d*) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

    (*e*) Transparency in armaments;

    (*f*) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

    (*g*) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(*h*) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(*i*) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(*j*) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(*k*) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines;

(*l*) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

(*m*) Small arms;

(*n*) Nuclear disarmament;

(*o*) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(*p*) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(*q*) Regional disarmament;

(*r*) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(*s*) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(*t*) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

10. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (item 72):

(*a*) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(*b*) United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services;

(*c*) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(*d*) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(*e*) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

11. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (item 73):

(*a*) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(*b*) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(*c*) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(*d*) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

12. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (item 74).

13. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (item 75).

14. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (item 76).

15. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (item 77).

16. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (item 78).

17. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (item 79).

18. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee (item 80).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

1. Effects of atomic radiation (item 81).

2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 82).

3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 83).

4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 84).

5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 85).

6. Questions relating to information (item 86).

7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 87).

8. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 88).

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 89).

10. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VIII (section D)] (item 12).

11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 90).

12. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18).

13. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).

Second Committee

(ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE)

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to V, VIII (sections A to C and E to H) and X] (item 12).

2. Macroeconomic policy questions (item 91):

   (*a*) Trade and development;

   (*b*) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

   (*c*) Commodities;

   (*d*) External debt crisis and development.

3. Sectoral policy questions (item 92):

   (*a*) Business and development;

   (*b*) Industrial development cooperation.

4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (item 93):

   (*a*) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

      (i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

      (ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

   (*b*) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

   (*c*) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

   (*d*) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

   (*e*) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

   (*f*) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

   (*g*) Cultural development.

5. Environment and sustainable development (item 94):

   (*a*) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

   (*b*) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(*c*) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(*d*) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(*e*) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

6. Operational activities for development (item 95).

7. Training and research (item 96):

   (*a*) United Nations University;

   (*b*) United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

8. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (item 97).

9. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (item 98).

Third Committee

(SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE)

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, III, V, VI, VIII (sections A, C and I) and X] (item 12).

2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (item 100).

3. Crime prevention and criminal justice (item 101).

4. International drug control (item 102).

5. Advancement of women (item 103).

6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (item 104).

7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (item 105).

8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (item 106).

9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (item 107).

10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (item 108).

11. Right of peoples to self-determination (item 109).

12. Human rights questions (item 110):

    (*a*) Implementation of human rights instruments;

- (*b*) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (*c*) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- (*d*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
- (*e*) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Fifth Committee

(ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COMMITTEE)

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 111):
    - (*a*) United Nations;
    - (*b*) United Nations Development Programme;
    - (*c*) United Nations Children's Fund;
    - (*d*) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
    - (*e*) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
    - (*f*) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
    - (*g*) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
    - (*h*) United Nations Population Fund;
    - (*i*) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
    - (*j*) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;
    - (*k*) United Nations Office for Project Services.
2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 112).
3. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (item 113).
4. Programme planning (item 114).
5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (item 115).
6. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 116).
7. Pattern of conferences (item 117).
8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (item 118).

9. Human resources management (item 119).

10. United Nations common system (item 120).

11. United Nations pension system (item 121).

12. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (item 122):

    (*a*) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

    (*b*) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

13. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (item 123).

14. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (item 124):

    (*a*) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

    (*b*) Other activities.

15. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (item 125).

16. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (item 126).

17. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (item 127).

18. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (item 128).

19. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (item 129).

20. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (item 130).

21. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (item 131).

22. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (item 132).

23. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (item 133).

24. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (item 134).

25. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 135).

26. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (item 136).

27. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 137).

28. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 138).

29. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (item 139).

30. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (item 140).

31. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (item 141).

32. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (item 142).

33. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 143):

    (*a*) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (*b*) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

34. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (item 144).

35. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (item 145).

36. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (item 161).

37. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (item 163).

38. Joint Inspection Unit (item 165).

39. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, VIII (sections B and C) and X] (item 12).

40. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):

    (*a*) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (*b*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (*c*) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (*d*) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (*e*) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

    (*f*) International Civil Service Commission:

        (i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

        (ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission;

    (*k*) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee.

Sixth Committee

(LEGAL COMMITTEE)

1. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (item 146).

2. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (item 147).

3. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (item 148).

4 United Nations Decade of International Law (item 149):

   (*a*) United Nations Decade of International Law;

   (*b*) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

   (*c*) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations.

5. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session (item 150).

6. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session (item 151).

7. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (item 152).

8. Establishment of an international criminal court (item 153).

9. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (item 154).

10. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (item 155).

11. Review of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (item 156).

ANNEX II

CHECKLIST OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Item*	*Plenary meeting*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
53/1	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions				
	A. Assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of the devastating floods	20 (*b*)	23rd	1 October 1998	4
	B. Emergency assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis	20 (*b*)	28th	5 October 1998	4
	C. Emergency Assistance to Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama	20 (*b*)	50th	2 November 1998	5
	D. International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	5
	E. Assistance to the Niger, following the severe floods	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	6
	F. Special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	7
	G. Assistance to Mozambique	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	8
	H. International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	9
	I. Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia	20 (*b*)	59th	16 November 1998	9
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